Saleh: Accord to be signed soon

SANAA (R) — Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh said on Wednesday that a national accord to end a six-month dispute with his southern rival Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh would be soon, either in Yemen or abroad. In a speech in the capital Sanaa, Mr. Saleh said he hoped all parties and political powers in Yemen would work towards the success of the accord" which will be signed soon whether inside or outside the country." Political sources said that the signing was likely to take place in Jordan, which has offered to host the ceremony. The agreement, worked out by an all-party committee earlier this month, provided for political, economic, military and administrative reforms. They responded to several of the 18 points previously listed by Mr. Beedh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) as conditions for solving the dispute. Mr. Beedh withdrew to the southern city of Aden, the YSP stronghold, in July, which brought into the open his differences with Mr. Saleh which have paralysed the country and aggravated a serious economic slump.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية تصدر باللغة الانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية ،الراي،

Qadhafi: Libya arrests U.S. 'spies'

CAIRO (AP) — Muammar Qadhafi says Libya's security services broke up a U.S. subversion ring by arresting spies spreading seditious rumours in Libya for an American intelligence organisation. The Libyan leader told an audience in the eastern coastal city Benghazi the rumours were meant "to undermine the Libyan people's morale, to make people doubt their revolution." Colonel Qadhafi implicitly linked the alleged subversive effort to sanctions imposed by the United Nations to force Libya to surrender two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. Rumours were spread "to make the Libyan people doubt their revolution, their ability to revolt and their capabilities so that the Libyan people would... hand over their sons," Col. Qadahfi said. He revealed neither the identity nor the nationality of those arrested nor which agency they allegedly worked for but said they had confessed. Under U.S. law, most Amerians cannot legally work in Libya.

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King: Satisfactory solutions first, peace accord later

Jordan confident all peace tracks will converge; No hangups about meeting Rabin at the right time

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that Israel should focus more on negotiating the issues of conflict and arrive at just and comprehensive solutions rather than seeking to sign a peace accord with Jordan first and then negotiate the issues.

The King, addressing a press briefing here on the final day of a visit to Washington, said while Jordan was indeed involved in sorting out the issues on the table with Israel, it was not losing sight of its objective of a comprehensive settlement to the overall Middle East conflict.

The King's comments effectively quashed media suggestions that Jordan and Israel were close to finalising a peace agreement.

The King said: "We are working in regard to our own sphere, we are trying to see at the same that we encourage movement on all other tracks and I believe problems elsewhere are probably less than they are as they affect us because Jordan has borne the brunt of every disaster that has occurred over the years and the heaviest of weights. So we have a long way to go, but I hope that with goodwill on either side — Israeli and Jordanian — we will see rapid progress. I hope it will come together some time."

King Hussein called for an "interfaith dialogue" to determine sovereignty over the Christian, Jewish and Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

King Hussein sugested it was time to move the issue "outside the political equation."

The King repeated the Arab position that Israel must return the Arab portion of Jerusalem to their control.

He said there was a "need to consider maybe for the first time in oor history in the region, the possibility ... of an interfaith dialogue ... on possibly the sovereignty over these holy places."

"Maybe the followers of the three great religions can come to realise what the significance of Jerusalem is to all of them and move it outside the political equation," he said.

Asked for his concept of the fruits of a Middle East peace, King Hussein said it holds "the promise of an entirely different future."

"The talents that are available, the resources that are available, the opportunities that are available, I believe will transform the entire region," he said.

He also said that peace could bring about the removal of many barriers particularly to trade saying it could produce what he called "Middle East NAFTA."

The King said he has "no hangup" about meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"I hope that an opportunity will arise," he said, but added that he did not expect such a meeting to take place "in the immediate future."

"Our people are meeting, we are negotiating. It is only normal that such a meeting will take place," the King said while posing for photographers with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Earlier, at the press briefing, the King said the meeting would have to be properly prepared so that it could accomplish something.

"It's normal when moving toward peace that people meet," he said.

On Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, particularly with Saudi Arabia, he said:

"As far as Jordan is concerned we have always had ... if you take it that way, I have been a follower of my grandfather, and His late Majesty King Abdul Aziz Ben Saud who came together and settled their differences and left us the responsibility to work together as members of one family in the interest of our nation. Our relations have passed through a period ... I think that there are so many aspects that have to be addressed and could be addressed when we are able to meet face to face as I have tried since the outset.

"As far as we are concerned, we are most anxious to see the relations return to their warmth and to be based on mutual confidence and trust and to be based on the desire to cooperate in the interest of the Arab Nation as a whole.

"I hope the time will come, and I think we are moving in the right direction and I believe when we have a chance to meet we will discover that it was a very serious storm in a teacup, and I hope that our brethren in Saudi Arabia will realise that we never meant them any harm, nor did we cause them any harm at all."

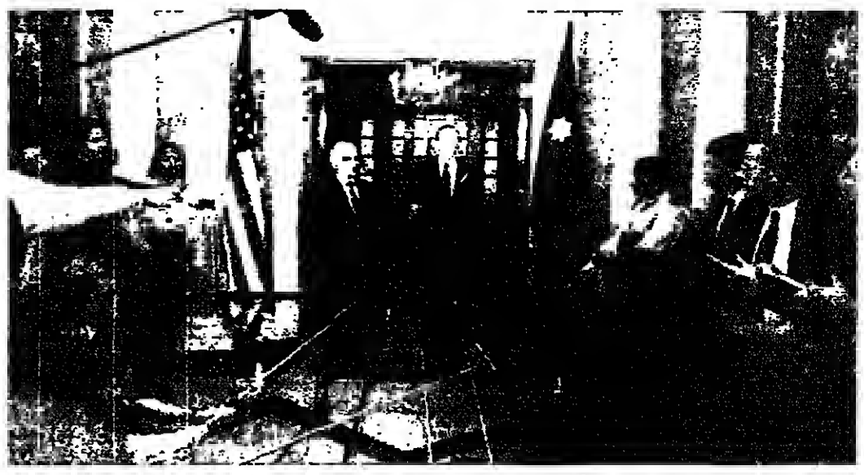
On Iraq and the continuing U.N. sanctions on that country, the King said:

"I have always said that I hope that this nightmare will come to an end sometime very soon, and particularly as it impacts on the Iraqi people and their continued suffering under the prevailing conditions. Somehow I hope we will get out of the area of Iraq not being an active, constructive part of the Arab World and the community of nations as soon as possible.

He said his version of peace was "peace, a real peace, a peace that gives everybody the opportunity to work together and to achieve their hopes for the future. And I spoke in detail about some of the problems that we have to address.

"(A) The problem of occupied territories, and I am talking of Jordanian occupied territories without prejudice to what our Palestinian brethren are talking about right now. And I have stated categorically that in that regard we feel very, very strongly that these areas — the small problem in the north of the Jordan Valley but there is a considerable area in the southern Jordan Valley that needs to be looked at in the sense of the urgency of our demand that Jordanian territory be returned to us. So there is the suggestion, and hopefully movement, on creating a group that will look at delineation and demarcation of these borders. And I hope that the coming days will see some progress here and people can move on the ground there. Once that is settled — and it has to mean the return of

(Continued on page 10)



His Majesty King Hussein talks to reporters with his side before holding a round of talks with Mr. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at Christopher in Washington on Wednesday (AFP)

25 deputies decry rabbis' visit

AMMAN (R) — Jordanian deputies condemned 83 Jewish rabbis for visiting the Kingdom last week and also slammed the government on Wednesday for letting them in. "We, like our people, were shocked by the rabbis' visit because it is something that was previously not allowed and they want to make it become something normal," said a statement signed by 29 members of the 80-seat Lower House. Members of the Association of Reform Zionists of America visited Jordan last week as part of a tour that also included Israel.

150,000 Syrians await return to Golan

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Some 150,000 displaced Syrians are waiting for peace to enable them to return to the Golan Heights, Damascus Radio said Wednesday. The radio said in a commentary it was "impossible to speak of a positive atmosphere (at peace talks) without an Israeli commitment to withdrawal from the Golan, which will forever be an indivisible part of Syria." The Jewish state "has not yet taken the necessary and expected step by announcing its readiness to withdraw from all the Arab territories it occupies," the radio said.

Libya to reopen embassy in UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Libya has decided to reopen its embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after a closure of nearly 10 years, diplomats said here Wednesday. The embassy will open in the next few months but Libya has already named Mohammad Faitouri as its charge d'affaires in the emirates. The Foreign Ministry acting undersecretary, Saif Said, met Mr. Faitouri on Tuesday "after Libya decided to reopen its diplomatic mission here," the official UAE news agency WAM said. Libya closed its embassy in the UAE and several other countries in the mid-1980s apparently because it wanted to cut overspending due to a decline in oil prices, an Arab diplomat said.

Dubinin named acting Russian finance chief

MOSCOW (AFP) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Wedensday named economist Sergei Dubinin to take over as acting finance minister following the reisgnation of Boris Fyodorov announced earlier in the day, Interfax reported. Mr. Dubinin was previously a deputy finance minister charged with legal and insurance issues.

Regent: Development is linked to security

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Wednesday links between security and development stemming from the fact that both elements are always sought by people.

In a lecture at the Royal War College on security, Prince Hassan said some people consider security as being development since there can be no development without security.

Prince Hassan said the national development strategy depends largely on national security, which makes security issues shape development strategies.

This, he said, calls for a concept of national security which would definitely allow for defining the priorities of development plans in a sound manner in accordance with national interests.

The Crown Prince outlined the use of the five main national power principles which form the basis for any national comprehensive strategy. These principles are the political, economic, social, psychological and military strategies, he noted.

The psychological experience of a people in their past form their behaviour in the present and the future, he said.

"The experience which we acquired and the lessons we extracted from the various conflicts which had faced Jordan are the elements defining our path, which makes these experiences reach a degree of legality and mount to become a social norm which every individual is committed to."

Prince Hassan said the characteristics of Jordan's personality were formulated by events of the past and the present, events which will be a determining factor in defining its future priorities and options.

Prince Hassan also met with Armed Forces and Public Security Department officers who have served in the Jordanian peacekeeping contingent in Croatia and other parts of the world and was briefed on their duties.

The Crown Prince affirmed at the meeting the need to preserve Jordan's good reputation and called for employing the international experience acquired by these officers in serving Jordan's national interests.

Also Wednesday, Prince Hassan attended a graduation ceremony of a Special Forces batch at Al Hussein Ben Ali Brigade. Prince Hassan distributed certificates to the graduates and awards to excelling ones.

The ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, who is the commander of the Special Forces and the brigade.

King seeks U.S. help for Jordanian peacekeeping role

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has urged the United States to respond to the needs of the Jordanian Armed Forces and help develop its potentials so that Jordan can undertake peacekeeping missions in the region and elsewhere.

Speaking at a meeting with William Perry, President Bill Clinton's nominee as defence secretary, at the Pentagon Tuesday afternoon, King Hussein voiced satisfaction with the ongoing talks of the joint U.S.-Jordanian Military Committee and underlined the importance of maintaining strong U.S.-Jordanian ties and cooperation in military and other fields.

King Hussein reviewed with Mr. Perry the Middle East peace process, expressing hope that it would lead to a just and durable peace in the region.

The King and Mr. Perry first held a closed-door meeting and then with officials from both sides. They discussed general issues of concern to the two countries.

Mr. Perry said Washington fully appreciates Jordan's central and important role in helping to ensure security and stability in the Middle East.

He also appreciated the role played by the Jordanian Armed Forces within U.N. peacekeeping forces, noting that his country was keen on helping these forces to shoulder their responsibilities.

Mr. Perry said that the U.S. team working in the joint military committee meeting would do its best to provide the means to help develop the Jordanian Armed Forces.

King Hussein also received Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani and renewed Jordan's call for Arab solidarity in the face of the current challenges. He underlined the need for closer coordination among the Arab countries.

The Qatari minister voiced appreciation of the King's endeavours to restore Arab solidarity.

Attending both meetings were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qasem.

Hamas claims attacks

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas claimed responsibility for an attack on an Israeli soldier in the occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

Also in Gaza, activists of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) confronted troops in protest at the arrest of PLO supporters.

Israel Radio said a soldier and a Palestinian were wounded when an Arab shouting "God is great" ambushed a patrol in occupied Gaza Strip.

Military sources said the Israeli was lightly injured and the Palestinian seriously in the ensuing clash.

In a telephone call to an international news organisation, an activist of Hamas said its Qassam brigade carried out the attack.

Israel Radio said the injured Arab was the assailant and he carried a Hamas leaflet. But the caller said the wounded Arab was a bystander and the assailant escaped.

Earlier, Palestinians wounded four Israeli soldiers in a grenade and gun attack in Gaza City, Palestinian sources said.

The attackers swept up in a car as the troops stood guard in Omar Al Mukhtar Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares, threw a grenade which exploded and then sprayed the soldiers with gunfire before fleeing.

The attack was later claimed by Hamas.

Witnesses in the town of Khan Younis, about 30 kilometres south of Gaza City, reported a clash between armed activists from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh group and the Israeli army. There were no injuries reported.

Both sides apparently avoided full armed confrontation but the clash further

(Continued on page 5)

House session on food, medicine on Wednesday

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government and the Lower House of Parliament will Wednesday hold a special session to discuss allegations by Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas that a good quantity of food and medicine that reaches the market does not meet the required standards and specifications.

At the request of the House, the government will explain the mechanism it has adopted to ensure the safety of food and medicine sold in the market and outline the measures it will take to address Dr. Malhas' allegations, which appeared in a weekly tabloid last week.

During a House session on Wednesday, deputies agreed to propose a line of action on the minister's allegations after the government explains its policy on food and medicine and presents its response to Dr. Malhas' statement.

Dr. Malhas has said that there is a deficiency in laws governing the sale of food and medicine and charged that many drug and food merchants have violated the few existing legislations. He said these merchants are resisting efforts to introduce new regulations that will better protect the consumers.

Many deputies had demanded the special session be held Sunday in order not to waste time but the majority of deputies voted that it takes place Wednesday.

Acting Prime Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar insisted that the session be held Wednesday so that the government will have time to prepare its response and investigate the issue. Dr. Abu Nowar mentioned that the government can have 10 days before it meets a House request to hold a "general discussion" on public issues.

Though no vote was taken, lawmakers said they had agreed the session will be an open one.

Dr. Abu Nowar said Tuesday that the government had set up two committees to investigate the food and medicine situation in the country.

Spokesman and presidents of parliamentary blocs and committees said in a statement Monday that people who are proven guilty of the minister's charges after investigation is completed should be referred to court. But they said the government should shoulder the responsibility for shaking the public's confidence in the safety of food and medicine and hurting the country's "reputation and national economy" if the minister's allegations are proven false.

Deputies failed to put a time limit on the speeches that many of them are expected to make after the government explains its food and medicine policies Wednesday. There were suggestions that each of the five parliamentary blocs have one speaker address the issue in no longer the 15 minutes and each of the independent deputies speak on it for no longer than three minutes.

Some lawmakers said, however, that the internal regulations do not put any time limits on the speeches the deputies can make. The House took no decision on the issue.

The Public Freedoms Committee meanwhile said it will Saturday start hearings on Dr. Malhas' allegations. Committee President Mohammad Dawoodiyeh said the committee will interview former health ministers, medical doctors, pharmacists and experts.

During its session Wednesday, the House listened to the government's responses to a number of questions raised by deputies. But the House ended its session before completing items on its agenda as it became clear that it could not maintain a quorum.

Rabin wants Syria to step up its efforts

STRASBOURG (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Wednesday urged Syria to step up its efforts to resolve longstanding disputes in the Mideast peace process.

"I call on President Hafez Al Assad to walk the extra mile in order to meet us in the middle of the road for peace, and assure us a high degree of security about Syria's long-term intentions," Mr. Rabin said.

Speaking to the parliamentary assembly of the 32-nation Council of Europe, Mr. Rabin called talks with Damascus "serious and open," adding "progress has even been made."

Mr. Rabin expressed optimism for Israel's negotiations with each of its Arab neighbours in the Mideast peace process, but he towed a strict line of Israel's security.

"Israel will be very forthcoming in its quest for peace, but it will not compromise on its security," he said.

Mr. Rabin championed U.S. guidance in conducting bilateral talks between Israel and Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Our aim is to conclude a set of bilateral peace agreements in each and every track of negotiations," Mr. Rabin said.

Talks among those parties resumed Monday in Washington. The previous round was held Sept. 9, before the signing of the peace accord between Israel and the PLO on Sept. 13.

Israel's chief delegate to talks with Syria in Washington was positive Monday after the first day of discussions.

Syrian-Israeli discussions have bogged down during previous rounds as Syria insists on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Rabin has said that such a move would have to be approved in a referendum of the Israeli people.

Their talks were given new momentum following a Jan. 16

(Continued on page 10)

Compromise eludes Israel and PLO

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met here Wednesday to clear the hurdles to the launch of Palestinian self-rule but a compromise still proved elusive, despite the efforts of Egyptian and Norwegian mediators.

"There is still no agreement on a certain number of points," especially the question of control of border crossings, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said in Israel.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, said an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho could still be completed on time by mid-April.

The talks in Cairo were expected to wind up later Wednesday, sources close to the negotiators said.

On the sidelines, PLO leader Yasser Arafat met the Israeli negotiators, the foreign ministry's director general, Uri Savir, and his legal adviser Yoel Singer, to bear at first hand the Jewish state's position.

The negotiations, with the PLO's Ahmad Qourila and Nabil Shaath representing the Palestinians, were taking place ahead of Mr. Arafat's next meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Davos, Switzerland, on Saturday.

Dr. Shaath said the two sides remained stuck on the two main disagreements — security at border crossings from future Palestinian autonomous areas and the size of Jericho.

"These remain the problems we are trying to solve," he told reporters as he entered the talks.

Saeed Kamal, another PLO negotiator, said delegates were discussing results of the initial meeting between Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat discussing result of the initial meeting Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat last week in Oslo.

Israel radio reported that the two teams were trying to put into writing understandings between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres, presumably for consideration at their second session in Davos.

But Dr. Shaath raised doubts about whether the Davos meeting was firmly scheduled. Asked if negotiators were preparing for that round, he replied: "It will be decided as a result of these meetings."

He said the effort here was aimed at resuming talks in the Egyptian resort of Taba, where Israelis and Palestinians began negotiating in October.

Before Wednesday's negotiations, both delegations had an unusual breakfast meeting with Mr. Arafat. It was not known what was discussed, and Mr. Kamal said the negotiators had agreed not to reveal details.

Mr. Arafat also met two Norwegian foreign ministry officials, Torje Rod Larsen and Mona Juul, who took part in the secret negotiations which resulted in the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord signed on Sept. 13.

The meetings took place at Mr. Arafat's residence in the northern suburb of Heliopolis, adjacent to the hotel where Israel and the PLO resumed talks late Tuesday. The Palestinian team also met Mr. Arafat.

The dispute has been holding up the launch of limited Palestinian self-rule starting in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, despite intense Egyptian mediation to find a comprom-

(Continued on page 5)

Clark makes little headway in Cyprus

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash on Tuesday renewed his call for talks with Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides for a statement for the divided island.

"The only way for the two of us is to get together to pave the way for peace," Mr. Denktash told reporters while he met here with U.N. envoy for Cyprus Joe Clark.

Mr. Denktash, president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in northern Cyprus, is insisting on a meeting with Mr. Clerides before travelling to New York for the next round of U.N.-sponsored peace talks.

Trying to get the stalled talks going again, Mr. Clark arrived in Cyprus last week. After Cyprus, he will go to Turkey and Greece.

He has been trying to persuade the sides to agree to a set of confidence-building measures, including the reopening of Nicosia airport and the transfer of the town of Varosha to U.N. control.

After meeting with the U.N. envoy, Mr. Denktash said he had responded earlier to the package and now it was the turn of clerides to make clear what he accepts and what no. Turkish Cypriots have objected to a condition that Turkish Cypriot Airlines, considered illegal by Greek Cypriots, be banned from the airport.

Mr. Clark would only say that the meeting had been "useful

Mr. Denktash said the Turkish Cypriots were ready to resume the negotiating process interrupted by a government crisis that forced early elections last December in the Turkish-held north.

Greek Cypriot authorities have refused to resume the U.N.-sponsored talks with Turkish Cypriots, the official Cyprus News Agency reported.

Government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides told reporters the talks "cannot start" because there was "no clear Turkish Cypriot position" on proposals put forward by the United Nations.

Mr. Cassoulides said Mr. Clerides would send a letter soon to the U.N. chief explaining the Greek Cypriot position.

The spokesman said the letter would "not denounce anybody," but would "present our views and raise some views emanating from Denktash's response" to the U.N. proposals.

Rabin offers 'safe passage' to Qadhafi, criticises 'ambiguous' European position

STRASBOURG (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Wednesday he would guarantee safe passage to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi if he wanted to visit occupied Jerusalem on a pilgrimage.

Questioned about the status of Jerusalem following his address to European parliamentarians here, Mr. Rabin said that since 1967, Israel has assured freedom of religion in Jerusalem and access to holy sites for both Christians and Muslims.

"Anyone, Libyan or Syrian, can go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem," Mr. Rabin said. "If Mr. Qadhafi wants to go on a pilgrimage, I promise to give him a safe conduct and allow him to return safe and sound to Tripoli."

Mr. Rabain said earlier that the holy sites are administered by Christian, Jewish and Muslim authorities, and that he was determined to maintain Jerusalem as "a united city under Israeli sovereignty."

Mr. Rabin also slammed European countries for having an "ambiguous" attitude towards Israel and asked for more understanding of the Jewish state's economic and security needs.

Mr. Rabin, speaking before the council fo Europe Parliament assembly, asked European countries for help in lifting the Arab boycott against Israel, which he said was being used as an "illegitimate weapon" considering the two-year-old Middle East peace process.

Israel, he said, "has made concessions in exchange for lifting the boycott."

The Israeli leader added that the European Union (EU) must "extend bridges and lift barriers" when the 1975 free-trade accord between Israel and the 12-member community is renegotiated.

He said that a "strong Israel, backed by the support it needs, would be more open during negotiations with its Arab neighbours."

Asked about the continued settlement of Jews in the occupied territories, Mr. Rabin said his state could not adopt a law forbidding anyone from moving inot already established settlements.

"Israel wants peace," he said but predicted that "obstacles would arise, crisis situations would erupt, and we will be faced with disappointments, tears and pain.

"But we will finally have peace," he added while warning that Israel would not make any "compromise" that would threaten its "security."

Mr. Rabin said Israel did not need Europe's money, which should go to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to consolidate the Middle East peace process.

Venting exasperation at European criticism, he said: "For years, we have heard sermons, advice and... (suffered from) Europe's attitude belittling our fears about transfer of technologies, sensitive fissionable materials and sophisticated weapons systems to states that vowed our destruction.

"I believe Europe should take a stand which will make it instrumental in the peace process," the Israeli leader said.

"It should address the parties with an even-handed and fair approach. I feel an ambivalence in some European attitudes towards Israel... (and) would like to see more understanding concerning our political positions, security concerns and economic needs," he said.

Europe should recognise Israel had made "concessions" in the peace process and respond by acting to halt the Arab economic boycott of the Jewish state once and for all, he said.

Brown says visit was highly successful

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Commerce Secretary Ron Brown has completed an eight-day visit to the Middle East during which he received a commitment from the secretary-general of the Arab League to reconsider certain aspects of the organisation's economic boycott of Israel.

"It was a breakthrough of sorts," Mr. Brown said at a Jan. 24 press conference to discuss his Mideast trip, as well as to review the Commerce Department's performance in the first year of the Clinton administration.

Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid told Mr. Brown last week that rescission of the "secondary" and "tertiary" aspects of the boycott against Israel would be on the agenda at the next Arab League ministerial meeting in March.

Mr. Brown said his talks with Mr. Meguid had concentrated on the secondary and tertiary aspects of the boycott, because those "have a direct, negative impact on American industry." He was referring to the extension of the boycott to foreign firms — including American companies — that do business with Israel.

Mr. Brown's visit took him to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He stressed that his comments concerning the boycott had been "consistent" throughout the trip.

"The message was that the boycott is counterproductive, and that it is in fact an anachronism now that we're moving closer to peace," he told reporters. Mr. Brown said he also argued that the boycott "probably hurts most those who it was intended to help — and that is the Palestinians."

The United States has long urged for the boycott to be lifted in its entirety, but Mr. Brown said he expects the primary boycott to remain in place as one of the issues to be resolved by the parties to the Middle East peace talks.

In response to a question, Mr. Brown said he had also discussed Israel's boycott of Arab products, especially products from the occupied territories. "Those issues were pressed hard," in conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and other relevant feaders, he said.

"I have been assured by those involved in the negotiations that the economic negotiations are going well, and that those specific issues are being dealt with effectively," Mr. Brown said. The secretary noted that he himself had pointed to the example of "Palestinian fruits and vegetables rotting in the fields because they can't be marketed in Israel and elsewhere....

"That clearly has to end, and I am confident that will result from the completion of the economic portion of the peace talks," he said.

Mr. Brown said he made repeated references to the importance of economic development in the Middle East. "Our view," he said, "is that economic development — economic opportunity — is inextricably tied to peace and stability in the region, that you can't have one without the other."

The peace talks have added to the pressure, because progress in that sphere inevitably raises expectations of an improved standard of living, he said, adding: "We have to do everything we can to meet those expectations."

Specifically, Mr. Brown lauded the work being done by Builders for Peace, an organisation of Arab-American and Jewish-American business people who are working to improve the living conditions in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Brown said his own visit to Gaza had allowed him to witness first-hand the "devastating conditions — unacceptable conditions" in which people there live. It convinced him all the more, he said, of the need "to push forward as quickly as we can on the peace process."

Turning to other economic issues," Mr. Brown described his trip as "highly successful" in terms of his ability to act as an advocate for American businesses that are bidding for large contracts in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and elsewhere.

"We think we are well-positioned to do very well when those decisions are made — certainly on aircraft and telecommunications in Saudi Arabia — but (also) on a whole array of other opportunities in the rest of the Middle East."

Asked about reports that Saudi Arabia is finding itself under tight budget constraints, Mr. Brown noted that "they're still in a lot better shape than most nations to which we respond to tender offers. I don't think that that is going to be an issue in these negotiations."

Rights group concerned by Iran bishop's disappearance

NICOSIA (AP) — A human rights group Wednesday expressed deep concern over the apparent disappearance of an Iranian church leader and called on the Tehran government to determine his whereabouts and guarantee his well being.

In a facsimile message sent to the Associated Press, Middle East Watch claimed Bishop Haik Hovsepian Mehr, who heads the Evangelical Council of Pastors in Iran, disappeared in Tehran on Jan. 19 on his way to the airport.

Middle East Watch, a division of the New York-based Human Rights Watch, said it suspected Mr. Hovsepian, 48, was being held incommunicado by one of Iran's domestic security agencies but did not offer any evidence to back up its suspicion.

"No one has claimed responsibility for his abduction and enquiries of the Iranian authorities have so far drawn a blank," said the group. "Middle East Watch... is deeply concerned for the safety of Bishop Hovsepian. It calls on the Iranian authorities to make all efforts to determine his whereabout and guarantee his well being."

Mr. Hovsepian, an ethnic Armenian who also holds the post of general superintendent of the Assemblies of God Churches in Iran, went missing three days after Iranian authorities released the Rev. Mehdi Debadj, Middle East Watch said.

Mr. Debadj, a minister in the Assemblies of God, spent 10 years in jail before being brought to trial in 1993 when he was convicted of apostasy and sentenced to death. Iran announced his release Jan. 16, several days after the U.S. State Department called for Mr. Debadj to be set free.

U.S. troops are quickly withdrawing from Mogadishu streets

By Thomas Wagner
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — U.S. troops are withdrawing from Mogadishu's streets faster than expected and moving to the heavily guarded seaport and airport to await ships and planes for the trip home.

Two months before the U.S. military is scheduled to finish removing its 5,300 soldiers from the capital, the sand dunes and beaches at the airport are crowded with tents.

Most U.S. bases and strongpoints around the city have been turned over to soldiers from other countries who are staying in Somalia as U.N. peacekeepers.

The American soldiers, the backbone of the operation, must finish withdrawing by March 31, along with their helicopters, howitzers, armoured personnel carriers and anti-tank missiles. Many people believe that will leave U.N. forces far more susceptible to attacks by Somalis.

Somali militias, which appear to be rearming in Mogadishu, already have taken over four posts that the reorganising U.N. forces abandoned.

On Tuesday, a Somali child threw a hand grenade at the entrance of the Wahliye hotel 10 minutes after U.S. diplomat Stevenson McIlvaine left following a meeting with an ally of Ali Mahdi Mohammad, whose men control northern Mogadishu. The boy fled, and seven Somali civilians were wounded.

At the airport, many U.S. soldiers appear discouraged by a mission that went from a successful humanitarian operation that ended a famine to battles in the streets of southern Mogadishu. There they were put in the role of policemen trying to arrest the faction leader who controls that sector, Mohammad Farah Aideed.

Many believe that when their friends and families think of Somalia, they do not recall images of Marines carrying food to starving children. Instead, they picture a Somalia mob dragging the body of an American soldier through the streets last October.

"I think a lot of people are going to think nothing was accomplished here because this country is still in a state of disarry," said Corporal Dennis D. Hill, 23, sitting near the helicopters he and his buddies use to keep a lid on Mogadishu by flying over it day and night.

"Stopping the famine was a great success, but Americans are waiting to see a government formed in this place in the middle of nowhere," he said.

At the other end of the airport, on an Indian Ocean beach, Lieutenant Michael Mammay, 25, commands a platoon of howitzers pointed at downtown Mogadishu.

The howitzers were rushed in after an Oct. 3 battle that killed 18 American soldiers and wounded 77. After that, President Bill Clinton decided all U.S. troops would be pulled out by March 31, and U.N. troops stopped pursuing Aideed.

For three months, Somali militiamen have stopped firing mortars at U.N. forces because they know the howitzers shoot 43-kilogrammes, laser-guided shells that can level their position a few moments after they open fire.

"We keep the peace here because we have the biggest stick in town," Lt. Mammay said proudly, pointing at the big guns. "But the thing that determines whether soldiers win or lose is the political goal. In the Persian Gulf, the goal was to take back Kuwait. In Somalia, the goal was unclear."

After pausing to cover his ears while a huge military plane roared past and landed on the runway only a few metres away, he added: "Maybe it's hard to win humanitarian operations. It's not a war."

Starling Jones, a 24-year-old soldier who is proud that U.S. troops came to Africa to help Somalis, does not think Americans will regard Operation Restore Hope as a victory.

Sitting in a steamy airport building, he said: "This humanitarian mission was a success... ...But once it changed from being humanitarian to getting shot at, it should have been over and done with. If we're going to help someone out, even a sister country, we should only stay until we're getting mistreated and we're risking our lives, then they don't need our help."

After U.S. Marines first landed on beaches outside Mogadishu on Dec. 9, 1992, they quickly ensured that emergency food supplies got through to the starving people of Somalia. American troops were cheered by crowds of Somalis from all its warring faction until the standoff began with Gen. Aideed.

Today, relief workers — who are rebuilding roads, wells and schools — are fearful over a new wave of killings, robbery, kidnapping and extortion.

Although a U.S. Marine combat force will remain offshore for a while, many people worry Somalia will fall back into the cycle of civil war and famine after American troops leave. They say the peacekeepers from India, Pakistan and other nations will be ill-equipped to deal with renewed fighting.

"I don't think the United States is going to want to get involved in another mission like this one, because when we and other western soldiers pull of this place, the other countries won't have what they need," said 33-year-old Sergeant John Sheridan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed, two wounded in SLA shelling

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Arab guerrillas clashed with Israeli troops and surrogate South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen in South Lebanon Wednesday, killing one person and wounding two others, security sources said. The hostilities came as Arab and Israeli negotiators held talks in Washington to set a date for a 12th round of peace talks, interrupted for nearly five months. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that as of 1:30 a.m. (2330 GMT), the guerrillas carried out three mortar attacks on the SLA positions of Shoumariyeh and Baraachit in the central sector of Israel's self-styled "security zone". The sources said SLA and Israeli gunners struck back with howitzer shells on villages facing the two positions, killing a civilian and wounding two others. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Kuwaiti paper says Arafat should be stoned

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti newspaper, reflecting continuing bitterness in the emirate over Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) support for Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war, called Yasser Arafat a devil on Wednesday and invited him to visit so Kuwaitis could stone him. The Al Anba daily, responding to remarks the PLO leader made on Monday during a fence-mending visit to neighbouring Saudi Arabia, said in an editorial that Mr. Arafat would not be what he was today had it not been for the support of Gulf Arab states. Mr. Arafat told the Saudi-owned Al Hayat newspaper, in remarks published Tuesday, that he would like to visit Kuwait if invited. "We at Al Anba extend an honest invitation to Arafat to visit Kuwait so its people would be able to stone the devil of this era," the Kuwaiti newspaper said. "After all that Arafat has done... he continues his error, asking Kuwait to extend an invitation to him," it added. Kuwait once had close ties with the PLO leadership and over the past 30 years provided the group with hundreds of millions of dollars in funding. It froze relations with the PLO when it showed sympathy with Iraq after its invasion and annexation of Kuwait in August 1990. Iraqi troops were ousted by a U.S.-led coalition in February 1991. "Those whom we are talking about today (Arafat) would not have been (important), had it not been for the faith and support for the people of the Gulf for him," said Al Anba.

Bahrain, India study extradition

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain and India are studying treaties to fight terrorism and narcotics, the local Gulf Daily News said on Wednesday. It quoted Indian Minister of State for External Affairs R. L. Bhatia as saying he had submitted to Bahrain a draft treaty for the extradition of terrorists and a draft narcotics pact to block escape routes for the trade in drugs. "The treaties are under active consideration by Bahraini authorities," the newspaper quoted him as saying. Mr. Bhatia was in Bahrain Tuesday as part of a tour of Arab states to encourage foreign investors to invest in India. He had already visited Kuwait and headed for Yemen later on Tuesday. He also said a Bahraini trade team would visit India in April and an Indian-Bahraini joint economic committee would meet in May.

Israel uncovers coins, jewelry near Jericho

TEL AVIV (AP) — In one of the final Israeli digs outside Jericho before Palestinians are due to take control of the area, archaeologists announced Tuesday that they uncovered coins indicating ancient Jewish rebels counterfeited Roman currency. Israel's antiquities authority said it found gold earrings, brass rings, and bronze and silver coins at "sandal cave" on the Quarantal cliff overlooking Jericho. The cave is named for remnants of a Roman sandal found there. Archaeologists marked the cave for further investigation during "operation scroll," a last-minute drive to find treasures around Jericho before the area is handed over to the Palestinians, spokeswoman Efrat Orbach said. After the massive operation ended, archaeologists Hanan Eshel and Boaz Zeiso returned to excavate the cave, near the Quarantal Monastery that by tradition marks where Jesus spent 40 days in the desert and resisted the devil's temptation.

Sudan says measles epidemic contained

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan says a measles epidemic, which has killed a reported 55 people in a village in the war-torn south of the country, has been contained. The government-owned Al Ingaz Al Watanio newspaper, quoting the director of epidemics administration in Sudan's Ministry of Health, said on Wednesday that the necessary drugs had been sent to Kwoda village in Equatoria state. The director, Dr. Munir Abaro, said the number of cases had fallen in the village of 15,000 people from 146 per day in mid-January to only five on Tuesday. Kwoda is 40 kilometres north west of Juba, the main town in southern Sudan where the Islamic government's forces are fighting mainly Christian and Animist Rebels. Another government-owned newspaper, Al Sudan Al Hadith, said on Tuesday the disease had killed 55 people in Kwoda and 200 others had contracted it. Most were less than 15 years old.

Militants wanted to kill Israeli envoy

CAIRO (R) — Militants accused of a bomb attack on Egypt's prime minister had a list of 10 prominent figures to kill, including the Israeli ambassador to Egypt, David Sultan, security sources said Tuesday. They said the nine, from the group Jihad, confessed during questioning that they were plotting to assassinate Mr. Sultan under orders from their leader, Ayman Zawahri, who reportedly lives in Geneva. The militants said they were asked to monitor the movements of Mr. Sultan and prepare a plan to kill him. On their hit list was military judge General Ahmad Abdullah, who presides at most military trials of militants, including theirs. Gen. Abdallah was targeted by militants in July but they mistook his car and fired on another. In their confessions, the militants said they had planned to kill the judge who issued the death sentences against the four militants who killed the late President Anwar Sadat.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Taratara
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 ..... Rencontre
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Flesh and Blood
21:10 ..... Da Beat's On
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 Film "The Cops Are Robbers"

PRAYER TIMES

05:09 ..... Fajr
06:28 ..... *(Sunrise)* Duha
11:48 ..... Dhuhr
14:43 ..... 'Asr
17:07 ..... Maghrib
18:27 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be sunny and cloudy, as temperatures will rise and winds becoming westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	3 / 12
Aqaba	08 / 21
Deserts	2 /15
Jordan Valley	07 / 20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 88 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Dr. Isam Al Asmar 890504
Dr. Farouq Nour 786680
Dr. Jihad Zyadeh 801148
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shuqarri 246140
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ziyad J'aitem ..... (—)
Khalich pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 886300
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 1111/230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 640100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mulhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mnisher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
04:30 ..... Aden (RJ)
07:10 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
09:25 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 ..... Riyadh (RJ)
09:35 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
10:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)
10:20 ..... Colombo (RJ)
16:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:30 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)
19:00 ..... Casa Blanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:00 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:55 ..... Athens, Larnaca (RJ)
20:00 ..... Rome (RJ)
04:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
00:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00 ..... Riyadh (SU)
16:45 ..... Dubai (EM)
17:35 ..... Rome (AZ)
22:25 ..... Cairo (MS)
22:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)
23:15 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)
07:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 ..... Rome (RJ)
11:00 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:05 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15 ..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:30 ..... Larnaca, Athens (RJ)
11:50 ..... Paris (RJ)
12:05 ..... London (RJ)
05:55 ..... Cairo (RJ)
20:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:05 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 ..... Beirut (ME)
14:30 ..... Riyadh (SA)
17:45 ..... Dubai (RJ)
18:35 ..... Damascus (AZ)
20:55 ..... Cairo (MS)
00:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	720/450
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620
Cabbage	60 / 30
Carrot	180/100
Cauliflower	100/ 150
Clementine	230 / 250
Cucumbers [large]	100 / 50
Cucumbers [small]	220 / 160
Eggplant	160 / 60
Garlic	900/600
Grape Fruit	200/120
Green beans	700/ 550
Lemon	170 / 100
Marrow [large]	120 / 80
Marrow [small]	230 / 150
Olives [green]	700/500
Orange	400/ 100
Onion [dry]	360 / 300
Onion [green]	230 / 160
Pepper [hot]	240 / 180
Pepper [sweet]	240 / 180
Potato	250/ 180
Radish	100/ 50
Tomato	170/ 80
Spinach	120 / 60
String beans	580/ 400

CBJ licenses 5 banks in occupied territories

AMMAN (AP) — The government has given the go-ahead to five Jordanian banks to reopen branches in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi said in comments published Wednesday.

He said the move was part of an agreement reached with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) earlier this month and allows Jordan a strong say in the economy of the occupied lands, parts of which are expected to come under Palestinian autonomy soon.

The Jan. 7 Jordan-PLO agreement provides for, among other things, Jordanian control of banking and monetary affairs of the nearly 2 million residents of the West Bank and Gaza during a proposed five-year interim self-rule period.

It also allows Jordan to reopen its banks there, which were closed when Israel seized the territories during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Jordan had eight banks with 31 branches operating in the West Bank and Gaza before the war. One bank with seven branches reopened in the territories in 1986 under a special arrangement.

The Kingdom ruled the West Bank for 17 years before Israel captured the territory. However, in 1988, Jordan severed legal and administrative links to the territory.

In remarks carried by the local newspapers, Mr. Nabulsi said the CBJ had issued "preliminary licences" for five banks to reopen seven of their branches in the West Bank and Gaza.

"The banks now have to submit all necessary documents for final approval before they could actually start operations, Mr. Nabulsi was quoted as saying by Al Ra'i and Al Dustour.

Banking sources said the Bank of Israel must endorse the licences under an agreement Jordan and Israel signed on Dec. 1. The banks will operate under Jordanian regulations, but will have to send periodic report to the Bank of Israel.

Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho are expected to come under Palestinian self-rule in the initial phase of the accord signed between the PLO and Israel on Sept. 13, 1993. As such, Jordan had to have tacit PLO approval to reopen its branches.

Mr. Nabulsi named the banks which were given the green light and the towns where they were allowed to reopen as:

The Arab Bank, Nablus and Gaza; The Bank of Jordan, Jenin; the Jordan National Bank, Nablus; The Jordan Gulf Bank, Nablus; and the Arab Land Bank, Bethlehem and Gaza.

The governor noted that all the banks except the Jordan Gulf Bank operated in the territories before 1967. The licence for Jordan Gulf Bank was issued becasue another local bank which has since merged with it had branches in the West Bank.

Jordan's food security is endangered by population growth rate — bulletin

AMMAN (Petra) — A statistical bulletin released Wednesday warned that the current population growth rate of 3.4 per cent was causing heavy strains on natural resources such as water and soil and was making sufficient food production increasingly difficult.

As in other Arab and third world nations, improper use of agricultural equipment in Jordan has led to a deterioration in the cultivable land, resulting in a decline in food production and the emergence of environmental problems, said the bulletin which was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Population Commission General Secretariat and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) office in Amman.

Jordan's population at year-end 1992 was estimated at 3.9 million, but if the current fertility rate among childbearing women (aged 15-49) continues, said the bulletin, the Kingdom's population could reach 5.3 million by the year 2000.

The bulletin, issued Wednesday during a workshop on linking labour and population to food production and nutrition in Jordan, noted that the average Jordanian family currently numbers seven, population density is estimated at 44 persons per square kilometres, 42.5 per cent of the population is below 15 years of age and 32 per cent of the total population live within the Greater Amman region.

The 50 participants to the four-day workshop which began Monday are discussing topics related to population trends, changes in rural communities, food production policies, concepts on nutrition and the adverse consequences of excessive population growth.

The bulletin urged Jordanians to adopt the national health programme of birth spacing and to property utilise available agricultural resources in a sound and highly efficient manner with a view towards helping the country ensure food security and improve the quality of life of its citizens.

The workshop participants are expected to conclude their sessions Thursday by touring several health institutions in the Amman region and visiting a number of food processing plants under a programme prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Khaldoun Subeihi, director of guidance and agricultural information at the ministry said that Saturday a second workshop will open to deal with population and food production issues in the country.

He said delegates attending the coming workshop will include those from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) as well as the National Population Commission.

Police search for hit and run driver

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Um Al Amad police are searching for a hit and run driver who Monday struck an elderly woman and fled the scene, according to police reports.

The 70-year-old woman who was identified as S.A.A. suffered a fractured hip and was reported in fair condition, said officials at Madaba Hospital, where the victim is being treated.

According to police reports the suspect was driving a white Mazda. No other details about the car or its driver were available.

A police official at Al Badia Police Station in Madaba told the Jordan Times that as of Wednesday evening, police were still searching for the driver of the hit and run vehicle.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, in Zarqa, a 47-year-old man Tuesday was attacked and shot at four times by two unidentified assailants, said police reports. Muslim S. Mohammad received gun shot wounds to the legs, police reports indicated.

The report said that according to the victim's son, two unknown persons came looking for Mr. Mohammad early Tuesday at his house, but they were unable to find him and told the victim's son that they would return.

Later said the son, the two men returned to the house found Mr. Mohammad, and convinced him to ride with them, claiming that they wanted to settle a dispute in a trible fashion with another man.

The victim told police that the two men drove him on a farm road, stopped the car and asked Mr. Mohammad to get out of car. Mr. Mohammad said that when he stepped out of the vehicle one of the men started shooting at him.

Police reports, however, did not indicate if Mr. Mobammad resisted his attackers or if he tried to run away when he was fired at.

In Shmeisani area, also Tuesday, an 18-year-old man reported to police that he was attacked by three unidentified people.

The young man, identified as S.N.S., told police he was sitting in his car in the Shmeisani area when three men approached his vehicle and asked him to present some identification. The victim, responding to their demands, showed them a document. He said the three men attacked and beat him and left the scene.

The victim said when he looked for his wallet he discovered it was missing. S.N.S. was reported in fare condition and police are investigating the case.

Shrine restoration nears completion

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work on the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in Arab Jerusalem is nearly completed, and the final cost was $8 million which came in as a personal donation from His Majesty King Hussein.

Rafiq Khatib, Al Aqsa Mosque director, said the formal inauguration was expected by the beginning of March.

The Irish construction firm, Mivan, was contracted to refurbish the Dome of the Rock, a project which entailed covering the dom with gold-gilded copper sheets supported by lead beams, and to restore the roots and install a fire alarm sytem.

According to Mr. Khatib, the materials used in the project were tested at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) laboratories in Amman as well as in Germany, France and the United Kingdom.

All the materials met international standards and specifications required for the job.

Mr. Khatib also said that the special committee, formed in 1954 to supervise the restoration of the shrine, has been diligent in its work, adding that the panel had conducted earlier restoration works in 1956 and 1964.

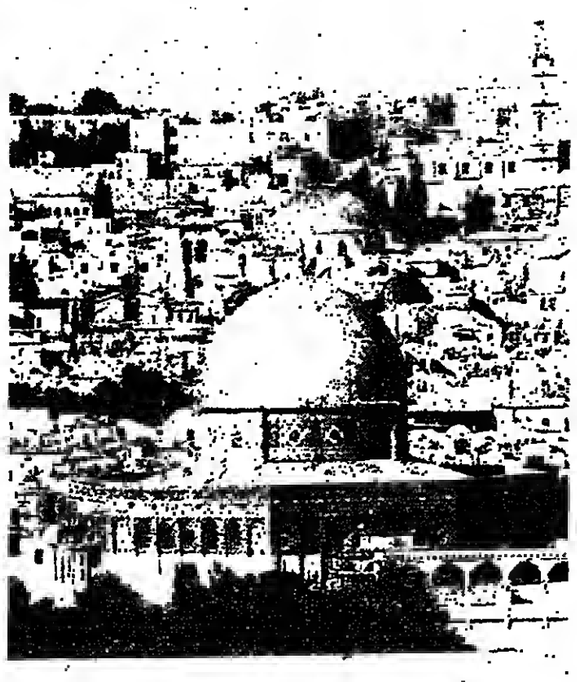
According to the committee, subsequent restoration was conducted at Al Aqsa Mosque after an act of arson by a group of Israelis in 1969 caused severe damaged.

In May 1992 King Hussein announced his donation of $8.24 million to help finance the current Dome of the Rock project.

According to the committee, Jordan spent JD 164 million on the restoration of the holy places up to 1992.

Mr. Khatib said the committee is currently studying plans for restructuring the minbar of Saladdin Al Ayoubi (the pulpit inside the Al Aqsa Mosque) which was burnt during the arson attack of 1969.

He said that the committee plans to enlist the help of renown craftsmen and artisans to help rebuild the minbar.



The Dome of the Rock (File photo)

AL Al Bayt Foundation plans international award event

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Academy of Islamic Civilisation Research (AL Al Bayt Foundation) Wednesday announced plans for an international cultural event at which "King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein" awards will be distributed for distinguished cultural works.

AL Al Bayt President Nassereddin Al Assad said the event would be organised in coordination with the Islamic and Near Eastern Studies Centre at Durham University in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Assad said the awards would be offered as way of encouraging researchers, scholars and artists from the Arab countries. He said participants in the event should present their contributions in Arabic.

According to Dr. Assad, the awards would be granted for remarkable scientific work, distinguished works of art or sculpture or research work on pan-Arab unity.

He said that the first awards would be presented in 1995 and later similar awards would be presented every two years.

According to Dr. Assad, the awards will be the form of cash and gold medals bearing the logo of Al Al Bayt Foundation as well as a certificate attesting to the honour.

Dr. Assad announced that a special committee, including representatives of Durham University, Amman on Saturday to prepare for the project.

He said preliminary and informal meetings were held in June and September last year to discuss the concept of this project.

The award called for by His Majesty King Hussein, would be supervised and followed up by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, said Dr. Assad.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

House panel to start health safety meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Freedoms and Citizens' Rights Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Saturday will start a series of meetings to discuss public safety conditions in light of recent statements by Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas attacking some food and drug merchants. The committee sent initiations to former health ministers, doctors, specialists, the presidents of the Jordanian medical and pharmacists associations and the chairman and secretary of the Consumers' Protection Society.

Businessmen's group elects new head

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association Wednesday elected Ibrahim Al Zein as association president and Hamdi Al Tabaa as vice-president. Mr. Zein succeeds Mamdouh Abu Hassan.

Jordan pavillion opens at Madrid fair

MADRID (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Adwan Tuesday opened the Jordanian pavillion at the International Tourism Fair in Madrid in which 30 countries are participating. Dr. Adwan also held meetings with several tourism ministers representing their countries at the fair and discussed with them means of activating cooperation between Jordan and their respective countries. The minister also met with his Spanish counterpart and extended to him an invitation to visit Jordan.

Study reviews German-Jordanian economic, technical cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A study prepared by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on prospects of economic and technical cooperation with Germany and German institutions Wednesday was reviewed at the RSS during the opening session of a workshop organised in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation of Germany.

The foundation's office director in Amman, Andrea Gearber, RSS Vice President Sa'id Alloush and Qasem Ahmad Director of the RSS International Studies Centre addressed the workshop.

Dr. Qasem presented a research paper on economic relations between Jordan and Germany, trade exchanges between the two countries, investment prospects and future German technical and financial aid to Jordan.

Also covered in the paper was cooperation between universities in the two countries and the exchange of scholarships, in addition to cooperation between scientific and technical institutes in Germany and Jordan.

Dr. Alloush reviewed RSS-German cooperation over the years, noting that Germany's assistance to the country was intrumental in promoting the Kingdom's water, environmental, economic and agricultural sectors.

Dr. Gearber told the audience that the foundation, which established its office in Amman in 1984, has offices and carries out projects in 74 third world countries.

He and the participants discussed the prospects of encouraging tourist exchanges, German help to Jordan in afforestation, promoting the transfer of modern technology and helping find alternative sources of energy.

Other topics such as German investments in Jordan and help to the Jordanian balance of payments and assisting the country in carrying out socio-economic development were also reviewed at the workshop.

RJ proposes Amman as new site for IATA technical centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) Wednesday proposed that the London-based International Air Transport Association (IATA) Technical Centre for the Arab World be moved to Amman.

The proposal was made by RJ Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Balqez to visiting IATA Director General Pierre Jeanniot during a meeting at RJ headquarters in Amman Wednesday.

Mr. Balqez said he discussed with the IATA official several other issues related to the association's Jordan cooperation and the prospects of adopting the RJ Civil Aviation Centre to train civil aviation officials from Europe and other countries.

IATA already has a regional management office in Amman, according to RJ officials, who also noted that the discussion with Mr. Jeanniot covered the developments that are expected following mergers of major world airlines in Europe and the United States in the next decade and the benefits of peace to civil aviation operations in the region.

Mr. Jeanniot presented Mr. Balqez with a special certificate in recognition of RJ's contribution to the world civil aviation services.

President and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian Wednesday receives a certificate of recognition from visiting International Air Transport Association Director General Pierre Jeanniot

Visiting Indian team explores joint venture prospects

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of visiting Indian businessmen representing major electronic industries and computer firms in India Wednesday discussed here prospects for Jordanian-Indian cooperation in electronics trade and joint ventures.

Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, who met the team tackled the prospect of launching joint Jordanian-Indian schemes to manufacture computers and computer programmes as well as other electronic equipment using joint capital.

Discussion at the meeting, which was attended by chamber members, covered the prospects of Jordanian markets serving as a centre to promote the sale of Indian electronics in the region.

Matters related to Jordanian trade and investment laws were also discussed.

The meeting concluded with an announcement that the Indian companies would embark on promotion campaigns to introduce their electronic equipment to the Jordanian markets.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Ghazwa Shukri at the New English School Art Gallery (Friday 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Makram Khaghandouqah at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Makram Khaghandouqah at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Omar Al Basoul at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition on the art of architecture at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

FILMS & DRAMAS

- ☆ Film entitled "The Wrong Man" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. (105 minutes).
- ☆ Film in English on surrealist artist "Magritte" (with commentary in Arabic by Ms. May Mudhaffar) at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- ☆ Drama entitled "Hamlet Crucified Again" at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- ☆ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) (on Thursday)

FIELD TRIP

- ☆ Field trip arranged by Friends of Archaeology to 'Iraq Al Amir. Departure from Amra Hotel parking lot on Friday at 9:00 a.m. in private cars.

هكذا من الأصل

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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The force of a tidal wave

THE FOOD and drug crisis triggered recently by remarks made by Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas continues to draw wider official and public interest and involvement with each passing day. The cause of public welfare, exemplified by the minister's revelations, has been boosted when His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, called for a serious and urgent inquiry into the situation. The government has now named two committees to investigate the matter and will brief Parliament next Wednesday. Recent reports reveal that similar abuses had taken place in the past but were bushed up by subsequent governments. In strict legal terms, silence on or cover up of crimes makes the officials *involved accessories* to these crimes and criminally accountable. Even negligence is punishable by law. Jordanians, therefore, expect the official or judicial inquiries to eventually lead to the indictment of the culprits, be them officials or traders.

The publicity created by these disclosures seems to have encouraged many informed Jordanians to speak out on other related issues. And more questions still linger. For example, the quality of the water that we drink or the air we breath. Do we have adequate zoning policies to make sure that our water aquifers are not being contaminated with hazardous waste, especially industrial waste and pollutants? When industrial cities were established, did anybody check the implications of the industry on water resources? And what about the indiscriminate use of pesticides and insectides in agriculture?

The issue at hand warrants investigation; and the government did well to establish two committees to probe into the quality of food and drugs consumed by the people. The government is also right to attempt to allay people's fears following the revelations of Dr. Malhas. However, following the interview aired on Jordan Television Tuesday, we fear an inclination towards containment of the issue. This of course will not be acceptable by the people or their deputies.

We believe that the matter goes beyond the greed of certain traders, as Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim contended in the JTV interview Tuesday. It has so many more aspects that have to do with the government itself, with laws and legislation and with social norms.

We are sure nevertheless that Dr. Malhas' revelations, that he chose to mitigate on JTV, will by the time they are dealt with give us an insight into the real morals and ethics that govern our society and the way our government functions.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily commented on the controversy going on about the recent statements by the health minister about the manipulations on the part of the merchants and drug dealers. It is certain that the health minister had encountered many malpractices and came to know a great number of malpractices prompting him to speak out, said the daily. According to the minister, those responsible for such malpractices and manipulations are amassing wealth by robbing people of the health and by causing tragedies to Jordanian citizens and sufferings to many people. It is the duty of the professional associations and the Health Ministry and the government at large to move fast and put an end to such malpractices. The committee which the government has formed to look into these allegations and accusations was the least measure vis-a-vis this dangerous situation, said the paper. It seems that the health minister has resorted to the public, and the press after realising that he was fighting a losing battle on his own and it is therefore the duty of the public, the press and all those with conscience to support the minister's drive to end such violations of the Jordanian laws and regulations, called the paper. The public ought to rise up and defend itself against the contaminated food and the adulterated medicine in order to protect to children, the mothers and the society as a whole.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily accused the U.S. administration of seeking to end the Arab boycott of Israel in order to deprive the Arabs of any card in the negotiations with the Israelis. Tareq Masarweh said that the United States has destroyed Iraq's power, imposed sanctions on its people, impose a siege on Aqaba to weaken the Jordanian economy, is exercising pressure on Egypt and Syria and taking all these hostile measures for the sake of serving Israel's interests. At the same time, he said, the United States is forcing the Arab Gulf states to remain hostile to the other Arab countries in order to perpetuate disunity among the Arabs and render them weak entities before the Israelis. The writer said that the Arabs are not bound to gain anything form the ongoing peace talks with Israel which the U.S. wants to remain superior to the Arab Nation militarily and economically and which it has been supplying with all means for enhancing its power and consolidating its hold over the occupied Arab land. The writer said that if Israel succeeds through the United States to end the Arab boycott, the road to Israel's domination of the Arab World would be wide open.

Arab reconciliation: The need for a summit

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THERE is no doubt that the real loser in the Gulf war, as has already become apparent and shall become more so in the future, is the Arab World at large. It is indeed ironic that just before the outbreak of the war, the Arab countries had begun to witness a very desirable (and long-awaited) degree of mutual understanding and respect. The jealousies seemed to disappear, the tensions to lessen, and the feelings of animosity to abate. The air seemed a lot cleaner and the attitudes sounder and healthier.

The promise of a new era was epitomised in the name of one of the Arab summit conferences held a couple of years before the Gulf war, the Summit of Consensus and Agreement (1987) — Mu'tamar Al-Wifaq Wa Al-Ittifaq. Though the first word in the name (Wifaq/Consensus) is perhaps too idealistic and even far-fetched to mean anything substantive, the second (Ittifaq/Agreement) is indeed revealing. There prevailed — in that conference itself, in the subsequent conferences (especially the one held in Iraq in May 1990), and throughout that whole period — not only a very genial but also a mature atmosphere. I distinctly recall the Arab leaders, even those who were most at odds with each other, addressing in the said conferences specific bilateral, multilateral, and pan-Arab matters openly but tactfully and diplomatically. The criticisms they made of each other, skilfully disguised in refined humor, were forthright but also responsible and fair. There was a serious exchange of viewpoints and a real dialogue.

The said summits were, in my opinion, a success not because they resulted in actual consensus and agreement (they obviously did not, at least not for a durable period of time) but because they pointed very tangibly to how the Arab countries might have conducted, and may still do, joint business and channelled their disparate efforts towards the achievement of common goals. It was crystal clear to the summit participants, as well as to any intelligent Arab observer, that the Arab countries did not have to oblige each other grudgingly, to love each other, to abandon their individual ideologies and philosophies, or to unite in order to function effectively and prosper. They could differ in temperament, in opinion, in vision, and in political structure and still be able to agree on methods, on strategies, and, more importantly, on what was ultimately good for each and all. This is the best any true lover of the Arab Nation could, and ought to, expect.

I do not aim to rehash dead history here, nor to reminisce on something that is no longer of significance. No! I wish rather, through such rehash and reminiscence, to remind of and suggest the workable basis, from our own recent political past, on which Arab reconciliation could be brought about and the future Arab relationships could be established — namely, dialogue through a series of serious summit conferences. Simply, let's resume what we started in the late 1980s.

We understand that the Gulf War, whose painful scars are still with us, has dealt a severer blow to the whole Arab Nation than has any other event in our modern history, greatly rifting and fragmenting it. The memory of the Arab World going to war against itself, of brothers fighting brothers, is neither pleasant nor easy to put behind. There are moments in fact when one thinks it next to impossible for the Arab World to ever wake up and realise that its true strength lies not only in reconciliation but in cooperation and joint action. True.

But it is also true that Arab countries are experienced enough and mature enough (or ought to be by now) to know that mistakes happen and that the only way to mend fences is to forgive and forget and that the only way to solve internal problems is not to let foreign parties interfere. The Arab Nation did undergo many tragic experiences before and was able to recover and seek solidarity with renewed determination. Furthermore, there is a strong realisation by almost all, even those countries which were more directly hit and hurt than others, that the real loss is, as I have said, that of the Arab World as a whole.

The Arab countries need each other, now as much as before, especially at this highly sensitive phase of Middle East peace and world reordering and restructuring. For them to continue to antagonise each other (blatantly or through insinuation), to turn their backs to each other, to live lukewarmly, or to pretend to like each other but not coordinate or cooperate, is not in the interest of any. The human and natural resources they possess, if well-managed and well-used, entitle the Arab Nation to survive, compete, and contribute more effectively to its own prosperity and to the world's.

The Arab air is, I believe, a lot cleaner than it was a couple of years ago, and its individual countries are readier for reconciliation and solidarity (or ought to be). The main obstacle, the way I see it, is psychological and procedural: Who is to take the first step? How and where to implement it?

The best solution, in my opinion, is to start preparing for an Arab summit conference, to be attended by all, on neutral Arab territory. And let's call it the Reconciliation, Ittifaq, and Coordination conference. It is time for such a brave and truly needed step, for the sake of the peoples of this great nation, who wish to see better times in the twenty-first century than they have seen in the present.

Reform's setback in Russia indicts an arrogant IMF

By Jeffrey Sachs

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — The Communist old guard reasserted political dominance in Russia last week.

The resignations of two key reformers, Yegor Gaidar and Boris Fyodorov, from Boris Yeltsin's cabinet are not just a failure for the Clinton administration, which has blithely accepted President Yeltsin's commitment to reform, but a serious setback for Russia's move towards democracy.

Western governments are now likely to spend much more on their military budgets than they would have on direct aid to Russia.

Most Western observers never understood the bald facts of political life in Russia. While pundits debated the relative merits of shock therapy versus gradualism, the real issue was far simpler.

Would reformers have the political strength and western financial backing to pursue a sensible and consistent financial policy, or would they be done in by a bitter and corrupt Communist opposition?

For two years, reformers in Moscow struggled for power while Western governments promised them large-scale aid. The financial crisis left behind by the Communist regime was too deep. The reformers could not win without outside help, but help never arrived, and the reformers paid the price, losing badly in the December elections.

The United States and its allies had turned over the task of bailing out Russia to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, principally because institutions could make loans that did not require congressional and parliamentary authorisation.

While the IMF and the World Bank proudly took the limelight as leaders of western aid, like private bankers they made sure that no significant amount of their money would be risked in unstable Russia.

Of the roughly $18 billion that the IMF and World Bank were to lend to Russia in 1993, only $2 billion was handed over. This might have been prudent banking practice, but it was disastrous foreign-assistance policy — and worse foreign policy.

What is even more troubling is that these institutions blundered in their assessment of the situation in Russia. It was not just excessive caution that stopped the flow of support. It was their lack of understanding about what to do.

The urgent tasks of financial reconstruction were admittedly complex, but the broad outlines should have been clear. Mikhail Gorbachev and the Communist regime had left Russia in financial shambles, with a budget deficit of more than 20 per cent of GDP paid for by printing money; a rampant and corrupt flow of subsidised loans from the central bank to state enterprises; an unpayable foreign debt; depleted hard currency reserves.

"While the IMF and the World Bank proudly took the limelight as leaders of western aid, like private bankers they made sure that no significant amount of their money would be risked in unstable Russia.

The main goals of financial policy should have been to reduce the budget deficit; to float new government debt on the domestic market, in order to cover the budget deficit without printing new money; to stanch the flow of cheap government loans to weak industries; to establish a separate Russian currency so that Russia could pursue a monetary policy independent of its neighbours.

At the same time, international grants and loans should have been provided to help the government pay its bills.

All these tasks were urgent, and each piece of the package was needed to support the others.

Critics might derisively call the package shock therapy, but these measures are the essential remedies for a financial collapse and have a pedigree stretching back to Alexander Hamilton's rescue of American finances in 1790, Hjalmar Schacht's solution for Weimar Germany's hyperinflation in 1923 and Ludwig Erhard's creation of a democratic market economy in Germany after World War II.

In all those cases, outside help was crucial.

The IMF failed miserably in advising the Group of Seven countries and the Yeltsin administration on Russia's financial reconstruction. It discouraged Russia from rapidly introducing a separate national currency. For two years it downplayed Russia's need and ability to issue domestic treasury bonds, focusing nearly all its efforts on pressuring the Russians to make politically impossible cuts in the budget deficit.

It advised Russia against the stabilisation of the ruble exchange rate and held back a ruble stabilisation fund designed to support such a policy. Most remarkably, it never acknowledged the urgency of mobilising international assistance to help Russia finance its deficit.

The IMF's relentless advice was to cut the deficit, not to find acceptable and noninflationary ways to finance part of it. The World Bank also failed in its most important task: to help finance a viable social support system.

Why was the IMF so inept? For a simple reason. For 50 years, it has been nearly as secretive and monopolistic as the Central Committee of the Communist Party. All IMF loan documents concerning Russia are secret.

The only information the IMF publishes is general economic data, not specific policy advice. The IMF is cut off from independent professional scrutiny and from competition. It alone determines whether western aid will flow.

Like any long-standing monopoly, it has grown arrogant, self-protective and sloppy.

And yet whenever anything goes wrong with an IMF programme, the United States Treasury and the other Group of Seven governments draw the wagons around the IMF.

The western governments have to understand that it is one thing to defend the basic and sound principles espoused by the IMF — budget discipline, responsible monetary policy, open markets — and another to cover up the shortcomings of the organisation's technical work and its reluctance to make loans in urgent circumstances.

The reformers may or may not get another chance in Russia. Now that they are no longer heading the key ministries, there is little the United States can do. It will have to watch how the policies of the new government develop, but it makes little sense for the Clinton administration to commit to large-scale economic assistance unless reformers regain power. In any case, American credibility on aid is already at a low ebb.

If reforms somehow continue, the worst response on the West's part would be to send an unreformed IMF back into the fray. The IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus, should accept responsibility for this debacle and step down. The IMF needs new management at the top and a new direction, based on the best practices in financial stabilisation, risktaking in lending money and openness to professional scrutiny.

The best the United States can do now is to prepare for another chance to support reforms before Russia poses a renewed threat to itself and the rest of the world — The New York Times.

The writer, professor of international trade at Harvard University, resigned on Friday as economic adviser to President Boris Yeltsin.

Bosnian town struggles to maintain Croat-Muslim harmony

By Dan de Luce
Reuter

TUZLA, Bosnia — One of the last bastions of ethnic harmony in Bosnia is struggling to hold on to the idea of co-existence between Croats and Muslims.

With a war between the Muslim-led Bosnian army and Croat militia raging in central Bosnia, cracks are beginning to appear in Tuzla's ethnic politics.

The Bosnian army this month ordered a Croat brigade in Tuzla to dishand, on the grounds that it could not be tolerated while Croat units were fighting Bosnian troops elsewhere.

The 115th Croat brigade had helped defend the north Bosnian town against Serb forces, but Croat-Muslim warfare that erupted last year in central and southern Bosnia has led the Sarajevo leadership to view separate Croat units as a potential threat.

Tuzla's Muslim mayor, Selim Beslagic, hopes to resist the tide of ethnic division sweeping through Bosnia. But some wonder privately if even the popular mayor can protect Tuzla from a three-way civil war.

"The situation is not even remotely similar to the situation in central Bosnia," Mr. Beslagic said in his office in Tuzla. "Both Croats and Muslims have decided to live together here like human beings."

Residents of this industrial town of 120,000, which has a majority Muslim population, spoke proudly of Tuzla's tradition of ethnic tolerance and intermarriage.

"I think people are different here. We never considered someone's nationality here," said Verica Markovic, a 32-year-old Croat from Tuzla. "Even now, intermarriages are quite common."

Roman Catholic Friar Petar Matanovic, a Franciscan who lives in Tuzla, appeared on television earlier this month to calm tensions after the Croat brigade was disbanded.

He appealed for cool heads and restraint. So far there has been no violence against the Croat minority, which makes up 15 per cent of Tuzla's population.

Friar Matanovic said in an interview that Tuzla, home to coal and salt mines and other heavy industries, was a communist stronghold that clung to the ideals of former leader Josip Tito, who believed in the unity of the Yugoslav peoples.

"The idea of Yugoslavia was always very strong here," he said.

In the last census before the war, up to 24 per cent of the population called itself Yugoslav when asked to register their nationality.

Although neighbour to neighbour relations still seem to be peaceful, some Croats said privately that they feared the influence of a more hardline Muslim government in Sarajevo.

Tuzla was one of only three towns in pre-war elections that voted for a non-nationalist party, with Mr. Beslagic's reformist party of Bosnia-Herzegovina obtaining 35 per cent.

The Party of Democratic Action (SDA) led by Alija Izetbegovic emphasised Muslim interests, scoring victories in other predominantly Muslim towns.

Three years later, Mr. Izetbegovic serves as president in a Bosnian government dominated by the SDA, and members of his party rule the towns and villages around Tuzla.

Mr. Beslagic is said to have tense relations with Mr. Izetbegovic's government, but he played down his differences with the Bosnian leaders, saying they agree on basic principles of preserving the full territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We had a visit from four ministers from the government recently. None of them said they would opt for an Islamic, fundamentalist state. They are all talking about a modern European state," the mayor said.

But the commander of the disbanded Croat brigade, Zvonko Juric, insisted the Bosnian government no longer had Croats in mind. He said he agreed to the army's demand to dissolve his brigade two weeks ago because Croats had no interest in what he called "fighting for a greater Muslim state."

Mr. Juric said the Bosnian army, which has surrounded separatist Croat troops in the central Lasva Valley to the south, was trying to expand into Croat-populated territory to make up for land lost to Bosnian Serb forces early in the war.

"The moment Izetbegovic supported the partition of Bosnia into three ethnic states, it was clear to me my brigade no longer served the purpose of defending and creating a joint state," he told Reuters.

The former commander left open the possibility that he and some of his soldiers would join forces with the Croat defence council (HVO) fighting Muslim-led troops elsewhere in Bosnia.

The Bosnian army has allowed another Croat brigade to remain intact in Brcko, north of Tuzla, because it plays a vital role in fending off Serbs in the Brcko battle zone.

Army officials have said its future will be decided by the end of February.

One prominent Croat intellectual, who declined to be quoted by name, said he was pessimistic about the future of Croat and Muslim co-existence in Tuzla, despite the good intentions of most residents and the mayor himself.

"I am not a panicky man, but I know the psychology of masses," he said. "This is a historical process."

Many Croats fear they would be relegated to a minority status in a Muslim-led state, he added.

"Croats in the area are not convinced that they should fight to the end (with the Bosnian army), because they know they are a minority and will get nothing for it."

Weekender

Jan. 27, 1994 A

Published Every Thursday

'Jordanians showing more interest in music'

By Mohammad Masharga

ARE Jordanians musically illiterate?

What kind of music does the public in Jordan appreciate: Oriental or Western? Folkloric or modern?

If Jordan is "musically" illiterate and if there is a real lack of understanding and appreciation of music, then who is to blame?

Mohammad Hazza'a, the supervisor of music programmes at the Ministry of Education says the ministry has been holding annual competitions for school children on national anniversaries.

According to Mr. Hazza'a, school choirs, bands and folk singers were involved in these functions.

He says that the ministry believes that that is sufficient music for school children at this stage. "What you hear about the ministry restricting music lessons to certain groups is not true at all", he told this writer.

Statements like these echo what state officials in former Eastern European countries used to say.

The Ministry of Education has no independent department that is responsible for the teaching of music or theatre. It has no budget for this kind of cultural training. What the ministry does, however, falls within what the officials call the framework of cultural or extra curricular activities and these include oratory the reciting of poetry, handicrafts, laboratory work and the like. The ministry also gives some attention to sports and student outings and has special budgets for these types of functions but not for theatre and music.

Indeed the teaching of music was endorsed by the educational system in Jordan at the First National Education Conference in 1987 but no curricula has yet been detailed.

Mr. Hazza'a, however, says the ministry might embark on a trial curriculum next year. He noted though that the ministry lacked qualified music instructors.

The ministry at the moment has 38 music teachers, out of which 10 work as part times.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

The ministry also has 116 teachers who have undertaken courses in music but are not fully qualified to teach. In the schools of Karak, Tafileh, Ma'an and Aqaba there are no music teachers at all.

Mr. Hazza'a admits that schools have no infrastructure for the teaching of music, no special halls for music training and that the teaching of music is haphazard, depending on methods created by the teacher. In addition, he said, the ministry has no incentives or allowances for music teachers who in most cases get a regular teacher's salary of JD 130 a month, an amount that a professional musician gets for a night performance at a local night club.

The ministry budget for music training this year is JD 50,000. Most of this is spent on the purchase of musical instruments.

Kifah Fakhoury, the director of the National Music Conservatory, says schools are in need of laying the infrastructure for teaching music rather than buying musical instruments.

But ministry sources say annual budgets for music training are squandered not on infrastructure but rather on the purchase of equipment that no one would need in the teaching process.

According to educationalists the major blow to teaching music to children came during a period of 10 years during which the ministry was controlled by the Islamists who are totally opposed to the teaching of music.

Critics of the Islamists say they only allowed religious hymns accompanied by drums and tamborines. The ideas planted in the minds of the ministry officials then are still influencing their actions at present, one ministry official, who asked not to be named, said.

Other factors that contributed to the lack of interest in music is the social environment, especially in a conservative society that does not easily lend itself to the idea of boys and girls indulging in music. These factors together did not help in laying down a traditional foundation for the birth of a music culture at the national level. This failure was accompanied by a slow revival of traditional and national arts, according to Dr. Nabil Dras, dean of the Jordanian Music Academy. He says it is difficult to teach music at higher levels unless music training is introduced in kindergartens and primary schools.

In advanced nations, Dr. Dras says, a musician requires four to seven years of training, particularly at the primary school level. Without appropriate training and infrastructure, he said, there can be no real music renaissance in the Kingdom.

Violin instructor at the Academy Naser Abido echoed the same view, noting that the lack of financial means are behind the lack of teaching music in most of the Third World countries.

Music is part of a nation's culture and so lack of requirements for music places additional burdens on the educationalists.

It is to be noted, however, that the National Music Conservatory, which is supervised and sponsored by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), is trying hard to bridge the gap in teaching music in Jordan. Currently, the conservatory is providing training for 300 students, according to Kifah Fakhoury, the institute director who maintains that the conservatory can by no means substitute the Ministry of Education which runs bundreds of schools.

However, according to Ms. Fakhoury, the conservatory could, through the help of foreign expertise, build a solid base for future generations of musicians. In his view, despite the past image of music in the country, Jordanians are increasing showing "interest" in music.

A longing for the land

Purple Of Life
Poems by Nayef Abu Obeid

Poetry is an essential branch of literature which actually preceded prose as an art of expression. Though in modern literature it comes next to prose it is still valued and appreciated by all nations, especially by Arabs, because Arabic is indeed a language of poetry. In Jordan there are many poets today. I chose from amongst them a poet from the north whose achievements in poetry are well known to all Jordanians. His book Purple Of Life contains many poems dealing with different subjects that are reflections of the poet on matters affecting his people, his nation and the world at large. "Poetry is an inclusive medium. This inclusivity.....make poetry an invaluable tool with which to explore the nature of human interaction with the external world" as Alan Scholefield puts it in his book Poetry For The Earth.

In reviewing this book an attempt is done to show style, line of thinking, subjects of interest, odds and shortcomings as well as poetic experience of our poet. Nayef Abu Obeid was born in 1935 in Al-Husn near Irbid where he finished his elementary education and moved to Irbid to complete his secondary schooling. His poetic journey started at early age and continued till now resulting in many books among which are Songs For Land, Our Village Divan and the book at hand. "I'm an old liner in poetry," he says. "I believe modern form of poetry is rather a prose dressed in poetic garment. A poem which rhyme doesn't run through its verses is no poem at all" he assents.

His opinion leads one to discover that at times he is more concerned in the form rather than the substance of the poem i.e. in decorating his poems with rhyme, similes and metaphors, but after a second reading one finds in many of his poems that sweet, sincere and perpetual longing for the land, for the country life which constitutes part of his own life — perhaps the dearest part. For him that sort of life represents simplicity, faithfulness, warmth, true emotions and source of sentimentality:

Your land is calling upon you, so hail
Who else but you to fulfil its hope
Who to unchain its hands and sail
But lovers of its beauty and grove

One unconsciously shares his nostalgia for his home's landscape and daily life, for those parts which give that life its integrity.

Aren't you eager for hill and slope
An' for the lute that turns you drunk.
For the eye of dawn that is all hope
With eyelashes soft, velvety and stark
Home It Is, never denies its folk

Palestine is in the heart of the poet and we taste the bitterness of its loss from his lips:

"From the shore of love we carried reminiscence
A handful of sand from Toolkarm and Yafa"

But in his heart there is love too for his nation as a whole. He rejoices in its victories and cries in its defeats:

Slow down your pace Oh moon! then gaze
Lo! moons of Baghdad are all ablaze
Slow down theretofore and hear the news
If ever news shall be nowadays

In the heat of his enthusiasm he praises martyrdom and considers martyrs as heavenly people or as beams of light in the prevailing darkness:

POETRY REVIEW

My friend who's been laid in the ground
Is a martyr, dear, generous and grand
Proud I am to be the one
Who saw his will in danger done
He peered on us from our night
As meteor, nay ... as morning very bright

Yet a tune of despair is heard from him when he sees that nothing, almost nothing had been achieved despite the caravans of martyrs who paid their lives for their nation:

Oh hopes of our nation! sleep away.
And yield your rein to traitors and fiends
Times of glory are gone, I say
Dig a tunnel in soil and fields

In this psychological dilemma and depression he finds no consolation but to seek God's mercy and here religious emotion manifests itself clearly:

When night's darkness defeats armies of moron yet your dawn paint face of meadows with gold
I come to you Oh God! Forlorn calling, praying Oh most Beneficent God to spread peace, to get wounds healed

Then a shred of light emerges from behind thick clouds and the children of Intifada revive his hope by their heroic deed and sacrifices:

All roses are beautiful
Most of all red rose
From the blood of dear ones
It harrowed its blouse

Despite all depressing factors resulting from the situation of his nation and homeland, love for his country remains intact and melody of eagerness and yearning is emanating from his verses:

I kissed your soil after wandering long
At moment of love, in shadows of moonlight
Lord! In m' heart I made a promise so strong
In it to live life's journey to its height
On all roads I am met with its face
In journeys of ecstasy between lute and string

As a poet he is inspired by things which others do not grasp or pay attention to and here comes the role of the poet which makes out of the ordinary something that siezes wonder. Here is an extract from a poem describing an aeroplane:

Soaring through, it spread a wing
Till air had become its own domain
Wind sparkled its heart to bring anger
So furious it wailed again

His fields of interest exceeds the borders of his region and the Arab World to the world outside. We see him heartily sympathising with men of freedom anywhere and those who fight tyranny. In this respect he eulogised the South African black poet Benjamin who died for the cause of his people:

Nayef Abu Obeid

A knot hung round his neck
Lighted darkness of his long night
The knot was an exit for his soul to depart and find refuge in its roaring jungle calling from there on blacks: What do we have but chains, jails and the vicious stab
I died for you his soul whispered
Do not cry oh fellows, but chant
On drum's beats with delight

There are other poems dealing with other subjects in this book such as "hypocrisy" in which the poet ridicules personal and social hypocrisy and two eulogies one to the late Jordanian Prime Minister, Abdul Munem Rifai, and the other to Palestinian poet Mue'n Bsaiso.

Mohammad Daoud Tahboub

Angel mania takes flight in U.S.

By Sebastian Smith
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — Angels, once thought to restrict their appearances mostly to hermits and monks, are materialising all over the United States in bestsellers, all-angel shops and on talk shows.

"Before, only desert fathers, hermits and mystics could seem them," said Sophy Burnham, a Washington writer and expert on angels. "Now people are telling their stories"

Once an esoteric topic, the nature of such heavenly residents has become a hot topic recently as the focus of everything from lowbrow television talk shows to the mainstream newsweekly Time.

Some explain the growth of angelology in the past two years as a spiritual reawakening and quest for guidance, while others say it is pure new age fad.

Whichever the case, cash registers are ringing.

More than 40 shops or organisations across the country deal exclusively with angelic merchandise and more than five million books on angels have been sold in mainstream bookstores.

Need a nightshirt reading "sleep with the angels"? It is available for $22 from the Angelic Alliance, based in Angel Heights, Maryland.

Everything Angels, another heaven-sent business opportunity, distributes a slick catalogue to 90,000 people. Its telephone number: 1-800-99 ANGEL.

Ms. Burnham said the publishers were nervous when they published her A Book Of Angels in 1990.

But it soared to the top of the Washington Post best-seller list and has since sold 566,000 copies and been translated into five languages.

A recent Time magazine poll suggested the angel invasion is not just a media creation: 69 per cent of Americans believe in angels, the poll found. That is up from 50 per cent in 1980, according to a Gallup survey.

There are almost as many theories as to why angel mania is sweeping the United States as there are angels — 399,920,004, according to the medieval Saint Albert the Great.

People are looking skyward because "we're in a very difficult period and the world just came out of a very materialistic part of our history, when the trinity were power, money, greed," said Eileen Freeman, publisher of Angelwatch Newsletter.

Several experts said that people have always been interested in angels, but were too embarrassed to talk about them.

Until the late 1980s "there was very little regard to the sanity of people talking about angels," said Guy Martin, who teaches a course on ghosts and angels at Harvard University.

"There was a terrible taboo," Ms. Burnham said.

Another theory is that modern man finds God menacing and organised religion too demanding.

The modern angel is guaranteed to be friendly and is a far cry from the terrifying warrior angels of the Bible, experts said. The Angel Movement is similar to new age spirituality in that "it is an attempt to make people feel good," Mr. Martin said.

Andre D'Angelo, a faith-healer who says he uses angels to heal, said people see cherubims and their winged colleagues as a way to get through to God — like secretaries for a very busy boss.

Mr. Martin said he is sceptical about the craze. Many people who profess to believe in angels actually know little about religion or the history of angels, he said.

Mr. D'Angelo criticised dealers in angel goods for putting a dollar sign on heaven.

He said he had received an advertisement for a crystal angel, suggesting the statuette "has some connection to angels. And you pay them $250," Mr. D'Angelo said.

"There are a number of charlatans."

New atlas speaks volumes about fate of world's rare languages

By Ben Hirschler
Reuter

LONDON — Thousands of rare languages spoken by small groups of people around the world are on the verge of extinction.

The encroachment of communications and television and growing economic pressures on native peoples could cause a third of languages spoken now to disappear in the next century, experts fear.

According to the Atlas Of The World's Languages, the first such comprehensive survey, 6,500 languages are spoken today, excluding dialects.

That rich diversity is being whittled away rapidly.

"Around 2,000 languages have less than 1,000 speakers and are likely to die out in the next 50 to 100 years," said Christopher Moseley, editor of the Atlas.

"Another 3,000 have less than 10,000 speakers and could go the same way, if present trends continue."

Most under threat are the indigenuous languages of the Americas and Australia.

Maps detailing the situation at the time of first contact by white men reveal that hundreds of languages in these areas have already been wiped out and many others are on the critical list.

The Atlas, published in London this month by Routledge, identifies 200 surviving Australian aboriginal languages. Of these more than half are spoken by fewer than 10 people and two dozen are represented by just one, elderly surviving speaker.

Latin America is another area at risk, although considering the fact that Christopher Colombus arrived in the new world 500 years ago, Mr. Moseley said the Atlas showed a surprising variety still in existence.

Even a country such as Germany can have linguistic throwbacks to another age, now hanging on by their fingertips. The Atlas records 10,000 speakers of North Frisian, 11,000 of East Frisian and 70,000 of Sorbian in Germany.

One warning sign for a vulnerable language, highlighted by the Atlas, is its break-up into small islands of speakers surrounded by another dominant language.

"Once a language starts to fragment its chances of survival are not great," Mr. Moseley said.

Many of southern Africa's endangered Khoisan languages, for example — famous for their use of "click" sounds — are now confined to a few isolated pockets following widespread social intermingling with Bantu and other speakers.

The lack of a written version of a language can take a heavy toll as integration with modern societies forces native peoples to adopt a recorded method of communication. Probably only a 10th of the world's languages can be written.

The biggest winner in the global march to linguistic standardisation has been English, with 350 million native speakers but 1.4 billion people using it as a second tongue.

Chinese boasts many more native users (around one billion) but has few second language speakers.

The third biggest language is Spanish with up to 250 million native and 280 million second speakers.

Despite the accelerating decline in linguistic diversity, the picture is not all bleak.

In a few areas, most notably Europe, there is a revival of pride in local languages.

In western England some people are now learning Cornish — a language that died out 200 years ago — and in the former Soviet Union the end of Communist rule has prompted the resumption of teaching of languages not previously recognised by the state.

Mr. Moseley finds particular encouragement in the example of Livonian, a language spoken on the Latvian coast until fishing villages were broken up.

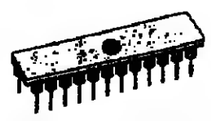
Today there are just nine elderly native speakers left. But since Latvian independence their descendants have started teaching it again.

"I once wrote a thesis on Livonian which talked about terminal decline — but I think I may have to eat my words," Mr. Moseley said.

The art of upgrading

By Jean-Claude Elizs

chip talk



A study of the activity of Personal Computer (PC) distributors and retailers in Jordan for the year 1993 would indicate that an important slice of their sales was not in gaining new accounts but rather in upgrading or replacing the equipment their users already had. My estimate puts this slice at approximately 30 per cent of the total sales. The trend abroad is practically the same.

Modern PCs are very modular by design and also inter-compatible. One can exchange screens, keyboards, Mice, printers and other components between different machines. Most options and add-ons can be fitted on any brand. Such property makes it easy to upgrade a given computer to a more powerful one simply by adding components or replacing some of them.

Certain forms of upgrading however do not bring much added value or power to the machine, though they would be attractively presented by skilled salesmen. Trading components or adding them to a PC requires as much thinking and studying as acquiring a totally new system. Would anyone want to install a music CD (laser disc player) in an very old car whose engine is noisier than a Jumbo Jet and whose shock absorbers don't absorb anything anymore?

It has often been discussed in this column that the real, overall power of a PC comes from the integrated, harmonious combination of some essential elements — the type of the central processor, the main memory size, the speed and capacity of the hard disk to name only the most important ones. Except in rare, specific cases, upgrading one while leaving the others unchanged will be expensive and won't bring any significant improvement in performance.

Assuming we have a 386 PC with 40 MB (million bytes/characters) of hard disk capacity and two MB of main memory and its user might want a bigger hard disk to store more programmes, like Windows and some related software, the new hard disk can be anything between 120 MB and 250 MB. However, keeping the memory at two MB might impede the new disk performance and therefore raising the memory from two to four or even eight MB would be highly recommended.

By the time the hard disk and the memory are upgraded, the 386 processor won't be up to the job anymore and a more powerful one, 486 for instance, would be required. At this stage the user might compare the cost of all this upgrading and the purchase of a completely new PC, after eventually re-selling his old 386 system.

Does all this mean that upgrades are useless? I do think that, in most cases, they are. It all depends however on the application. For someone who makes an extensive use of scientific, mathematical software, increasing the memory only can make an important difference. In programmes that handle large amounts of data but where speed in not essential, replacing small capacity disk drives with bigger ones can also solve the problem.

Other cases when upgrades are worth the trouble and the money is when the PC is originally purchased with characteristics that do not balance. For instance, someone who has bought a 486-DX system with eight MB memory and only 60 MB of hard disk storage must certainly replace the disk with a bigger one. This however would be considered more as the "correction" of a mistake than a real upgrade.

In the end, and once the technical comparisons are made, the only valid decision factor is the price one has to pay for the upgrade versus the price of a new machine.

Mission impossible

By E. Yaghi

The first question Anwar asked himself when his plane landed in America was what would his reception be when he found Yasser. Im Yasser, the rich lady who employed him as the manager of her company insisted that he go immediately to the States and rescue her son from his infatuation with an American woman who certainly must be of very unsavory character. Anwar's reward of course would not only be financial but end in his prospective marriage to his employer. Anyway, he decided he needed a brake, so he agreed to go on this mission and see whether he could indeed convince the young Yasser, who had gone to the Americas on vacation and then remained for two years, to return to take over his mother's business. Im Yasser's constant stream of letters and nagging phone calls failed to encourage her son's coming back and so, Anwar was chosen for the mission in place of the youth's invalid mother.

He proceeded to travel by bus to upstate New York and there would search for Yasser's apartment and approach him. Certainly this American companion of his could be nothing but a bad influence, he contemplated as the neat and clean bus sped past the bright autumn colours of oranges, reds and yellows and through a crack in the window, he caught a once in a while whiff of the fresh smell of nature and every so often admired the Hudson River which wound its way upstate with the interstate highway.

The elderly woman who sat next to him broke his meditation when she stated in a matter of fact way: "Beautiful isn't it, our river? Not only is it scenic, but it is historic too. However, unfortunately for us, industry has polluted it beyond imagination. That's why few people boat on it, for the stench is that of dead fish and no one would dare think of swimming in it for fear of coming down with instant death. Such a pity how man is so destructive of his environment!"

But Anwar could only effort an affirmative nod so as to return to his deep thoughts. After he reached the lovely city of Sirap, he asked for directions to a street by the name of Woodstock and hopped on the local bus which dropped him quite near the address. "Excuse me," he said politely to a teenage jogger, "could you please tell me where 201 Woodstock is?"

"Sure," she replied, "it's right across the street and up just a ways."

So he sauntered up the street after crossing it, squinting his eyes in the hot sun until he reached Yasser's apartment. The building seemed old but enchanting and the envoy followed the sidewalk up to the porch and then rang a bell. Presently, a young, clean shaven man opened the door and exclaimed enthusiastically: "Why Anwar, old friend, do come in. What brings you all the way to this part of the world?"

Anwar found the young man warmly shaking his hand and at the same time pulling him into a dark room which smelled like incense. "Please, do sit down and tell me, how is mother?"

Pleased to have reached his destination and to find Yasser so hospitable and impressive, Anwar sank down into the comfortable, plush sofa and was left to his thoughts for a minute while his host rushed to get him a soft drink. Then after he assured Yasser that his mother was well, he stated the purpose of his mission. "Yasser, boy, you must return home. Your mother needs you and so does her company. What is it that is keeping you here? Why don't you go back and marry your cousin Nadia?"

"First of all, I want you to meet a friend of mine and then tell me who to marry. How about tomorrow for lunch? I'll take you to an exquisite restaurant where you can look out over the city and see forever! Meanwhile, you must stay here with me until you return."

And thus it happened. The next afternoon, Anwar and Yasser drove to the famous landmark restaurant where to the tune of soft music, and the smell of lilacs and roses, waited for Yasser's American lady friend. She made a grand entrance into the dining hall almost like Scarlett O'Hara might have and in fact, she seemed to Anwar to possess those same violet eyes and velvety musical voice. She floated over to grasp his hand and almost sung, almost whispered, "I'm so delighted to meet you," and sat down next to Yasser.

Later, back at the youth's home, the 50 something Anwar stated dryly to his companion: "Look, here, perhaps I was wrong to insist that you return. Maybe you should wait for a while. Have you thought of marrying her?"

Yasser laughed and answered: "I didn't imagine you'd be won over that quickly. Whatever would mother say to this? You came to convert the savages and have become converted yourself? I'm sure that if you successfully bring me back, your reward will be mother herself. You mustn't destroy your prospects."

Anwar felt himself turning red and mumbled: "I'm not for sale. I could never do something I don't believe in. In fact, maybe I shall not return at all."

"What? And risk losing everything you've worked for all these years?" Yasser almost seemed to scream.

He needed time to think and he needed something much more, he needed rest. He got up and went to his room and threw himself on his bed. Here he was, in a mid-life crisis, not knowing what to do. He had come to save Yasser from a woman he had been led to believe was evil but one look at her convinced him that her relationship with Im Yasser's son was virtuous and beautiful and that it was he himself who had spent his life chasing empty rainbows. He saw himself as wasted and shallow, waiting to marry a widow to ensure his success. If Yasser returned, then Anwar could marry Im Yasser. What a lame excuse for a marriage and promotion. And hadn't Yasser changed quite remarkably for the better? Obviously, his American friend had had a positive influence over him.

Next day, Yasser proclaimed over a breakfast of homemade homos and falafel: "I've decided to go back with you. I'll be leaving whenever you wish."

"And your friend? What will become of her?"

"Oh, you mean Caroline? I've decided to marry. I'll return with you and she will follow later after she's arranged to sell her house, furniture and car. Perhaps mother won't like me marrying an American, but I can't really envision being married to my cousin who is like a sister to me."

Anwar congratulated his young friend and said with a sigh, "I'm very happy for you Yasser, but I cannot go back with you right away. I've got to think some things over. It's just that I feel I haven't really lived, I've only watched other people do so. I need space to find myself and I think it's about time I did so."

He expected the surprised look on Yasser's face who now offered: "My dear and good friend, I've known you since I was a small boy and you've been like a father to me. You are welcome to stay in my apartment as long as you wish. Then, I take it you won't be marrying mother?"

Anwar sadly shook his head. "I'm afraid not. I'm quitting the company too. You see, it's the only fair thing to do. My conscience will not allow me to brag that I convinced you to return and claim the final prize. The greatest irony is that I've lost everything and gained nothing for myself!"

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- ☆ *In Africa, the seed of the date palm is often roasted and used as coffee.*
- ☆ *A new-born kangaroo is about one inch in length.*
- ☆ *There are about 5,000 languages in the world.*
- ☆ *Grape juice will quench thirst promptly, even when taken in small amounts.*
- ☆ *The first roll-film camera was patented by George Eastman on Sept. 4, 1888.*
- ☆ *William Howard Taft was the largest president of the United States. He weighed 280 pounds.*
- ☆ *A wild tiger is easier to train than one horn in captivity.*
- ☆ *Fingernails grow faster than toenails.*

☆ ☆ ☆

LET'S LEARN ARABIC
COMMON EXPRESSIONS

— What's that?	**Ma haza?**
— What do you want?	**Maza taf'at?**
— Have you any money?	**Hal ma'aka foloos/nokood?**
— Is there a change with you?	**Hal ma'aka fakka?**
— May I help you?	**Hal tasmah lee ann osa'idak?**
— I don't want anything.	**La oreed shay'an.**
— I want a cup of coffee.	**Oreed finjan kahwa.**
— I don't like tea.	**La ohib al-shaay.**
— Are you Jordanian?	**Hal anta ordonni?**
— Where do you live?	**Ayna taskon?**
— Can I have your address, please?	**Momken ta'teeni onwanak, law samaht?**
— Is your house far from here?	**Hal beitak ba'eed ann hona?**
— Are you free?	**Hal ladayka faragh?**
— Are you ready?	**Hal anta jahez?**
— Are you ill?	**Hal anta mareedh?**
— What is your joh?	**Ma howa amalok?**
— Are you a doctor or a bank manager?	**Hal anta tabib aw modeer bank?**

☆ ☆ ☆

TIME FOR FUN

● *Carolyn's uncle came to visit his brother on his vacation. He was a very stout man, approximately five by five. He was jolly for all of that and delighted in listening to Carolyn's chuckles as he told her funny stories. After dinner had been served and eaten, Uncle Tom smiled at the little girl and said:*

"Carolyn, I have some brand new stories. Would you like to hear them?"

"Yes, of course, Uncle Tom," she cried eagerly.

"Well, come sit on my lap and I'll tell them," he said.

She eyed his large stomach doubtfully. "Do you think there's room for both of us?" she asked.

☆ ☆ ☆

● *MRS. JONES: "I can never tell, merely by looking at my husband's face, whether he is lying to me or not. How can you tell?*

MRS. SMITH: "I merely look to see if his lips are moving."

☆ ☆ ☆

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

CAT: A generally unfortunate omen indicating treachery and deceit among those you trust. If you killed the cat, you will defeat the purpose of your detractors; if you chased it away, you may expect a sudden stroke of luck.

FOX: No matter what the action, a fox in a dream is a strong warning of danger around you from wily rivals or hidden enmity, unless you killed the animal or it was dead, in which case you will outwit the plotters.

☆ ☆ ☆

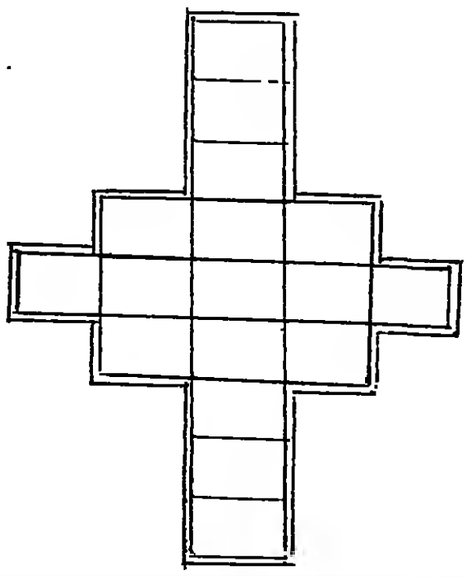
PUZZLES
CROSS FIT

First, solve the ACROSS and DOWN clues and write your answers in the cross. Then solve the extra clue and rearrange the letters of the solution to fit the vacant squares, so that another word is formed reading downwards.

ACROSS
1. *Buzz (3)*
3. *Pass a message (5)*
4. *Pile (3)*

DOWN
1. *Chop down (3)*
2. *Crazy (3)*

EXTRA CLUE
Taxi drivers (6)



THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

*Experience is a good teacher, but she sends in terrific bills — **Minna Antrim**, American writer (1856-1950)*

*Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic — **Arthur C. Clarke** (1917-)*

*Christmas won't be a Christmas without any presents — **Louisa May Alcott**, American novelist (1832-1888)*

*Peace on earth, good will to men — **Gospel according to St. Luke***

*A fool and his money are soon parted, but you never call him a fool till the money is gone — **Anonymous***

*No one worth possessing can be quite possessed — **Sara Teasdale**, American author and poet (1884-1933)*

*Time is the thief you cannot banish — **Phyllis McGinley**, American poet and author (1905-1978)*

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 27

8:30 Flesh And Blood

Beauty Is In The Eye Of The Ticket Holder

Rachel offers to help her niece to take part in a school play. But unfortunately her offer is turned down.

9:10 Da Beat's On

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — The Cops Are Robbers

Starring: Ed Asner and Ray Sharkey

A true story of corrupt police officers in Boston who are responsible for a series of robberies. But there are (as always) good police officers who are after them.

Friday, Jan. 28

8:30 Walter And Emily

With Zak having such a domineering grandmother, would be be able to go for water-skiing, or playing tennis without any problem?

9:10 G.P.

And Baby Makes Three'

There are two cases to be handled by G.P. Steve. One, of a little boy kidnapped while in hospital, and the other of an unmarried woman who is with a baby.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The River Kings

Sean and his family begin a new life after battling the overflowing river and saving many lives.

11:10 Are You Being Served

Heir-Apparant

An expensive fur coat is on sale. Guess who shows up for the sale... and for the buy?

Saturday, Jan. 29

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

9:00 The Talk Show

9:30 The Campbells

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Sacred Ground

A white American with a son born from his Indian wife, stands up against an Indian tribe which claims the son as theirs, following the death of his mother.

Sunday, Jan. 30

8:30 You Bet Your Life

Our weekly date with Bill Cosby and his quiz show in which he gives away the grand prize of $10,000.

9:10 Out Of The Past

New Worlds

A documentary that traces old civilisations from the time when man reigned over the lands and learned how to exploit it for his survival.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Island Son

Pain Killers

A new heart surgeon is under suspicion following a case of malpractice.

11:10 The Golden Palace

Monday, Jan. 31

8:30 The Torkelsons

Double Date

Mrs. Torkelson's new love affair becomes an issue in the family as they think it will take her away from them. Obviously they are proven wrong.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Michael considers resigning from DAA as a client's behaviour on a matter of principle runs against his own.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Night Nurse

Starring: Barbara Stanwyck and Clark Gable.

The film portrays Barbara Stanwyck as the efficient and devoted nurse at a hospital, where she shows special affection for children whose lives are in danger.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

8:30 The Respected Family

9:10 Mann And Machine

The Dating Game

A dating company is behind the killing of many women who seek partners. To find the murderer, Eve gets inside the company.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Cape Rebel

Smith is still on the loose. While awaiting a ship to take him away, he gets help from a hunter.

11:10 Night Court

Her Honour

Christine is chosen to be one of the new Judges.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

8:30 To Close For Comfort

The Prince And The Frog

The two sisters Sara and Jackie fight over a boyfriend.

9:10 Documentary — Special Treatment

Locking Up Aboriginal Children

A documentary about racial discrimination, as practised by a democratic country: The suffering of the aborigines in Australia.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Man Who Cried

The jealousy of a woman drives the father and son away from her seeking their fortunes away from her. They soon find out that she is on their tracks.

Gloria Estefan is a singer first

By Francisco Perez Rivera
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gloria Estefan's latest album has been on the billboard charts for weeks and looks like it'll go platinum. Not surprising for the pop songstress whose hits include Bad Boy and Rhythm Is Gonna Get You except for one detail: This one's in Spanish.

"I am very, very happy with the success of Mi Tierra, because of all the albums that I have done this is my favourite, this is my most personal project," the 36-year-old Estefan said in a recent interview.

Her first Spanish-language album as a solo performer is making chart history in the United States and abroad.

It made its debut on the billboard top 200 at No. 41 — the highest-charting debut of a Spanish-language album. On the Latin chart, it opened at No. 1. In the United Kingdom, Mi Tierra hit No. 11, the highest first-week showing for a Spanish-language album. And VH-1, for the first time, has put an all-Spanish-language video into heavy rotation.

The record-setting album evokes the feeling of Cuban music rhythms of the 1930s and '40s, though all of the songs are originals.

"We considered this project for about five years," she said. "We wanted to have something that evoked the past, that gave us a way of bridging the past while writing new music.

"The actual working time on the project itself, though, was two years. When we got into the studios everything was ready."

The Cuban-born singer co-wrote many of the songs with her husband Emilio, who also arranged many of the numbers. Another collaborator is singer-songwriter Jon Secada, who started his career as a backup singer for Estefan.

She attributes the record's success to "the fact that it comes right from the heart."

"We did it with love, as something very special, and those things come through into the performance. When something is done like that, people can feel it," she said.

When she sings the title song Mi Tierra (My Homeland), she said she indeed is referring to Cuba, adding: "But that particular song was written by a Colombian... so for him it meant something else. We wanted something that could catch the feeling of nostalgia felt by every Hispanic immigrant, no matter where he comes from."

According to Epic Records, Mi Tierra was certified gold only eight weeks after its release — the fastest that a Spanish album ever reached sales of 500,000 units in the United States — and it seems headed for platinum (a million sold).

Of course, Estefan also has succeeded in raising money for needy people, particularly the victims of Hurricane Andrew in Florida. Her image can seem so untarnished that she once told the publisher of The Miami Herald: "I'm going to have to do something evil to get rid of this goody image." Estefan was born in a Havana suburb on Sept. 1, 1957, and has lived in Florida since her family arrived in the United States in May 1960.

She went to school in Miami and grew up in a bilingual environment, as did most Cuban American children of the time. She met another Cuban-American, Emilio Estefan, and joined his band, called the Miami Latin Boys. They married in September 1978, and two years later had a son, Nayib.

The band, which changed its name to Miami Sound Machine, released its first album for a small local label in 1976. A couple of years later the group signed with CBS International and recorded several Spanish albums for that label before switching over to Epic Records, which released their English-language Primitive Love in August 1985. That album, now certified double platinum, included the band's first megahit, Conga.

Then came Let It Loose (1987), Cuts Both Ways (1989), Into The Light (1991) and the compilation Greatest Hits (1992).

Estefan, who's fully recovered from the nearfatal 1990 bus accident in which she broke her back, said she'll be touring to promote her new record and is even open to acting in movies.

"They are sending me some scripts, and if I find something I like I'd take it. But I haven't seen anything yet of the sort," she said. "I am basically a singer first. I want to enjoy my life."

Gloria Estefan

Palm Springs tries to join global film community

By John Horn
The Associated Press

PALM SPRINGS, California — This quiet desert town may not exactly be on the cutting edge of... well, anything. But for all its lack of artistry, Palm Springs now hosts one of the hippest, fastest-growing film festivals in the world.

A popular destination for newlyweds and retirees, this resort city usually attracts the kind of entertainment that makes cruise-line shuffleboard seem riveting in comparison.

But from Jan. 6-16, the city was transformed into a cultural oasis with the annual Palm Springs International Film Festival.

This year's festival featured about 80 movies. There are world premieres, U.S. debuts and 10 foreign films selected by their respective countries for Academy Award consideration. There were also two dozen Fellini films, in tribute to the late Italian director.

Although the festival has not yet lured a wave of Hollywood players and consistent throngs of major stars, movie fans and media from across the nation and overseas were among this year's guests.

Despite some difficult — if not occasionally offensive subject matter, audiences have been particularly responsive to the eclectic film slate. More than half of the festival's patrons live in the area, and most of those residents are older and more conservative than the rest of the nation.

"There definitely seems to be an interest in these type of films — which is surprising to me," said Mark Diamond, in his first year as the festival's artistic director. "There's a willingness to sample foreign films, which you might get resistance to in a lot of places."

Fearing such resistance, actor Peter Coyote introduced the sexually candid movie Bitter Moon with scepticism. "I will come back for a question and answer (session), if any of you are still here," he told the audience.

He had reason to expect walk outs. On Friday, the Motion Picture Association of America gave Bitter Moon, directed by Roman Polanski, a tentative adults-only NC-17 rating. A story of obsessive love starring Coyote and Polanski's young wife, Emmanuelle Seigner, Bitter Moon revels in sex — and some of its more colourful permutations.

"This is a very, very strange film" was Coyote's nutshell review.

Nevertheless, the movie was well-received; few people left early.

Similarly, when the new Italian film La Scorta (The Escort) was shown at the festival, ushers had to turn away crowds. Every seat was filled 15 minutes before it started.

There was not an empty seat, either, for The Scent of Green Papaya, which played at festivals last year and is Vietnam's submission for Oscar consideration. The early morning turnout was almost as good for the Hollywood documentary Rhinoskin: The Making Of A Movie Star.

Roman Polanski

Now in its fifth year, the Palm Springs Festival has debuted several notable films in recent years. They include Cinema Paradiso, Enchanted April and Mediterraneo.

Attendance at this year's festival was up sharply from a year ago, when 30,000 people came. Box-office revenues accelerated as well. Last year's festival claimed total receipts of $166,000. After just four days in 1994, the gate stood at $175,000.

The event is not yet on a par with the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, or the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado, which are considered the country's most influential festivals. Nor does it have the prestige of the New York Film Festival.

But executives at Fine Line Features, the distributor of Bitter Moon, felt Palm Springs was a perfect venue, especially since it gives them an idea of how it plays before moviegoers unaccustomed to such fare.

"It's a good place to show the film," says Fine Line President Ira Deutchman.

In the last few months, former mayor and singer Sonny Bono, who helped found the festival and is now its chairman, has had to replace the festival's executive and artistic directors.

Even with all the disruptions, Bono is confident the festival is on the move, and particularly was pleased with the sold-out festival dinner honouring Sophia Loren.

"Eventually, it will be one of the most important festivals in the world," says the often hyperbolic Bono. "It will get bigger and better."

Besides good golf, Palm Springs has a reputation for good social life: The party circuit frequently is gridlocked.

Artistic director Diamond says that's all fine, but the festival needs to focus on cinema, not cocktails, if it's to keep growing.

"In some articles, we have been criticised for not having enough parties," Diamond says.

"It's nice to have some parties and we still do, but the main reason for the festival is to have good films."

Dorothy L. Sayers and her perfect partner

By Audrey Woods
The Associated Press

LONDON — Dorothy L. Sayers, unlucky in love, found her perfect partner in the charming and witty Lord Peter Wimsey, amateur sleuth, ardent suitor and man of honour.

She created this slender, blond son of a duke and made him the hero of 12 books set among the privileged classes in the years between the world wars.

These classic mysteries have been steadily in print for more than half a century, despite the divided critical opinion that persists to this day.

Sinclair Lewis thought Sayers' The Nine Tailors was perhaps the best mystery he had read, while the critic Edmund Wilson declared it was "one of the dullest books I have ever encountered in any field."

The wimsey books, like others from the golden age of detective fiction, are filled with the colour and sound of their time: its dress, its slang and attitudes — including casual anti-Semitism and xenophobia — that sometimes reveal more about a society than serious fiction does.

Here is a world of dressing for dinner, of "beef-witted" English squires and "aeroplanes" in their infancy; of racy night-clubbing and of gentlemen's clubs so stodgy a nonagenarian could sit all day by the fire without anybody noticing he was dead.

Dorothy L. Sayers, a child of the middle class, did not move in aristocratic circles. But as a student at Oxford University she observed the youth of the upper class in its final flush of prewar privilege and confidence.

Sayers, who died in 1957, is sometimes accused of snobbery. But in an economically depressed world battered by one war and headed for another, Lord Peter offered readers the same brief escape from reality that Hollywood's madcap film heiresses and dimpled tots gave depression-era moviegoers.

Wimsey was a child of his time. He emerged from World War I with a medal for valour, a nervous breakdown, and his indispensable valet Bunter, his sergeant in the trenches.

The shifting sexual mores and "free love" of the '20s beset his heroine, Harriet Vane, who was tried for the murder of the man she had lived with "in an irregular manner," and saved by Lord Peter who ignored her scandalous past and pursued her to the altar.

There was more than a bit of the author in Harriet Vane.

Born 100 years ago in Oxford where her father was a college chaplain, Dorothy L. Sayers was part of the first generation of Englishwomen to graduate from Oxford University, to vote and to enter the business world.

Very much a modern woman, she carried on with a job in advertising while secretly bearing a child in 1924, a secret she kept from her parents and from even her closest friends. She wrote to him, educated him and finally adopted him, all without letting on he was her own.

If the son, John Anthony Fleming, resented the secrecy, he forgave it. "She did the very best she could," Fleming told Sayers' biographer Barbara Reynolds shortly before his death in 1984.

His father was Bill White, a motorcyclist and car salesman whom Sayers met soon after the breakup of a dismal liaison with a novelist named John Cournos. She wanted children, he didn't — and, like Harriet Vane's lover, he opposed marriage on principle.

Sayers began writing her first Wimsey book Whose Body? in 1921 as a straightforward attempt to supplement her advertising salary.

Once describing Wimsey's creation, Sayers said that when she was thinking of writing a detective story, he walked in and presented himself, "complete with spats" — and a sense of humour: The family coat of arms included "three mice courant and a domestic cat crouched as to spring," and its motto was: "As my whimsey takes me."

The popularity of Lord Peter and Harriet Vane is widespread. Miss Reynolds, chairman of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society, reports a gathering of 180 enthusiasts at a Sayers weekend in Madison, Wis., this summer.

Sigmund Freud liked Sayers' books, and modern-day fans include the prime minister's wife, Norma Major, and former Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, who is patron of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society.

How do characters that were so much a part of their vanished time and place remain so popular?

"They live so vividly," Miss Reynolds said in an interview, because "she put a great deal of herself in both of them," it has often been said there's a lot of Dorothy in Harriet Vane, but "she also put a lot of herself into Lord Peter, his excitements and enthusiasms," she said.

"As she developed, so did he. As her interests grew, his mind became more congenial to hers," Miss Reynolds wrote in Dorothy L. Sayers Her Life And Soul.

"As a companion, he would become more and more rewarding, both imaginatively and financially. Sadly this ceased to be true of her husband."

Dorothy Sayers' love affairs ended unhappily and her 24-year marriage to journalist Mac Fleming grew strained as he became ill-tempered with health problems and drink.

She is sometimes thought of as a plain, rather sad and defeated woman. But Miss Reynolds insists she was exuberant, full of energy and humour, fond of finery and dressing up — when her finances permitted.

Miss Reynolds, a scholar in Italian, became a friend of Dorothy L. Sayers in yet another phase of the writer's career — as translator of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy. Sayers completed two parts before her death, and Miss Reynolds finished it.

A record season for financial flops on Broadway

By Michael Kuchwara
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — No one is immune to failure on Broadway. Work there long enough and you're bound to trip over a turkey.

It's a fact, especially this season when the busiest fall in a decade produced more than its share of unsuccessful productions seven financial flops, so far, and it's only January.

The unfortunate roll call included such fine work as Brian Friel's Wonderful Tennessee, one of the most moving plays of the year, and The Kentucky Cycle, a two-part, six-hour historical drama that arrived in New York bolstered with a Pulitzer Prize and considerable success in Seattle and Los Angeles. It lost $2 million, a record for a play, during its monthlong run.

Then there were outright stinkers like Mixed Emotions, a wan little comedy that somehow ended up on Broadway instead of television. Or genuine miscalculations like The Red Shoes, the great Jule Styne's misguided attempt to turn a classic ballet film into a musical.

After nearly two months of previews and highly publicised firings of cast and crew, The Red Shoes opened on a Thursday in mid-December. It closed the following Sunday at a loss of nearly $8 million, making it one of Broadway's most expensive duds ever.

Styne's impeccable theatre credentials — he's the man who wrote the music for Gypsy, Funny Girl and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes among others — were no guarantee his new show would be a hit.

All the great composers made mistakes — from Porter to Gershwin to Rodgers to Berlin. So did writers such as Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller. Errors in judgment come with the unpredictability of collaboration. And not every play is Death Of A Salesman or A Streetcar Named Desire.

In 1943, while basking in the glow of two Broadway hits, Oklahoma and Carmen Jones, Oscar Hammerstein II took an ad in the show-biz paper Variety. It proudly listed his five previous shows, all flops, and then proclaimed, "I've done it before and I can do it again."

"On Broadway, when you're good, you're very, very good, and when you're bad, you're terrible," Hammerstein said later in explaining why he advertised his unlucky shows.

Yet in the 1920s, '30s and '40s, playwrights, composers, lyricists and actors could recover quickly from a disastrouse Broadway experience. In 1926, for example, Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart had four musicals produced in New York and one in London. Not all of them were hits, but the more successful productions erased memories of the flops.

Now unsuccessful creators soothe their bruised egos — and fatten their pocketbooks — in movies and on television.

Howard Ashman, one of the creators of off-Broadway's Little Shop Of Horrors, flopped on Broadway with "smile." Its failure drove him to California where he and his partner Alan Menken found success writing scores for Disney, including The Little Mermaid and Beauty And The Beast. Ashman died in 1991 before he completed a third Disney cartoon, Aladdin.

Ironically, the popularity of Beauty And The Beast as an animated feature persuaded Disney that it might work on Broadway. The stage adaptation begins performances at the Palace Theatre in March with Tim Rice helping Menken fill out the score for New York.

Disney owns the movie rights to Twilight Of The Golds, another flop this season. The rights to Jonathan Tolins' comedy-drama, which expounded the theory that homosexuality is genetic, were purchased before the play's disappointing Broadway run.

Whether the film will be made is anybody's guess, but the play's movie sale should ease Tolins' financial burden and, one hopes, make it easier for him to write something else for the stage as quickly as possible.

Like The Kentucky Cycle, Twilight Of The Golds had great success out of town, in this case at the Pasadena Playhouse in California. Broadway is littered with the ghosts of plays and musicals — does anyone remember productions like Status Quo Vadis, Warp, Flahooley and Mail? — that were huge hits in the hinterlands, only to die in New York.

Broadway these days is simply more inhospitable to serious theatre. Theatregoers, mostly an older audience, don't support drama as they did in the past, and most of them go to only one play a year.

Thirty years ago, Frank D. Gilroy's The Subject Was Roses, with no advance and no stars, managed to find an audience. Last November, the playwright returned to Broadway with Any Given Day, something of a prequel to the earlier family drama. Reaction was decidedly different. Reviews were mixed to negative, and Any Given Day expired unnoticed after a few weeks.

The flop of Any Given Day also damaged the cause of the Broadway alliance, a cost-cutting effort by producers to lower production costs and ticket prices. Even with the lowest top ticket price on Broadway, $35, Any Given Day didn't generate many sales.

Then there's the one fall failure that didn't even make it to New York before it collapsed. Paper Moon, a $4 million musical version of the Ryan and Tatum O'Neal movie, suffered the ignominy of closing last October in Millburn, New Jersey, 60 minutes from Times Square. The show, which starred Gregory Harrison, joins a long list of legendary productions like Breakfast At Tiffany's, Mata Hari, Annie 2 and Miss Moffat that never had a Broadway opening night.

Stars move from Hollywood to voter education in dusty townships

By Susan Thomas
Agence France Presse

SIYABUSWA, South Africa — On screen Lethal Weapon" star Danny Glover wiped out white South African baddies, but now he is tackling the reality by talking passionately with black youngsters in this dusty northern South African township about voting in the first non-racial election in April.

"Black people fought hard to get the vote in the United States. So you too must vote on April 27," he tells them.

Muscle-bound security men, looking not unlike the South African hoods Glover and Mel Gibson blew away in Lethal Weapon II, are tearing their hair out at the breakdown in security as the Hollywood artists stopped at a rundown shopping centre here this weekend to talk to the locals.

"Our orders are to make sure there are no international incidents," says one, straining to catch a glimpse of his charges who have been mobbed by an eager throng.

"What's going on, has someone died?" asks an out-of-breath youth as he joins the fray. "When a crowd gathers in South Africa it usually means someone has been killed."

But he soon learns that it is Glover and his colleagues — including LA Law's CCH Pounder, Delroy Lindo, who starred in Spike Lee's Malcolm X and Angela Basset, who played Tina Turner in What's Love Got To Do With It.

They were in South Africa for a week to play a part in convincing people that the ballot is better than the bullet.

"We are here to support the voting effort, to say to people that the vote is essential and that it is something that will have an important impact on their lives," Glover told AFP. "I also want to learn and talk to people."

Coming to South Africa is a dream come true for Glover, who has been involved in the fight to end apartheid for 25 years, a message he has tried to get through even in the mass-appeal Lethal Weapon movies.

After his efforts to emigrate to South Africa are stonewalled in Lethal Weapon II, he shouts at a poe-faced embassy official: "I want to join my oppressed brothers. I want to fight the facist regime. I want one man, one vote. I want to free South Africa, you dumb son of a bitch."

Questioned about the scene, Glover laughs: "Yes, I'm just remembering that. I had a hand in it. The Lethal Weapon movies were entertainment, but we certainly managed to bring attention to the South African system in II.

"(ANC President Nelson) Mandela had not been released and apartheid laws were still in existence, so we were dealing with the bad elements of South Africa.

"But I'm sure now all South African people are ready and determined to use their new democracy."

The action movie is not his only work involving South Africa. He's acted in five plays by South African anti-apartheid playwright Athol Fugard, played Mandela in a TV series and recently played a township policeman in the film Bopha.

He has also won critical acclaim for movies like the Colour Purple and in Places Of The Heart.

"I became involved in movements surrounding the struggle in southern African in the 60s," Glover says. "I was very romantic and idealistic in a way, but I'm fortunate that my idealism hasn't turned to apathy."

He says that he hopes to continue his involvement in South Africa after he returns home and during the run-up to non-racial elections next April 27.

"I want to be the next part of the struggle, the vote," he says. "This is just the beginning, it's something that is evolutionary and dynamic and there is much that will have to be done after the election."

Danny Glover plays the tough-guy cop in Predator 2

Everyday story of country life puts the 'Ambridge one' on map

By Jill Serjeant
Reuter

LONDON — It used to be an everyday story of country folk tending their farms and making jam for the Ambridge village fete.

But Britain's longest running soap opera, The Archers, has become a racy tale of seduction, armed robbery and test-tube babies so compelling that fiction is merging with fact.

The latest plot has bounced off the airwaves of the British Broadcasting Corporation's genteel Radio 4 and straight onto the pages of the nation's tabloid and quality newspapers.

Like real-life victims of wrongful imprisonment such as the "Birmingham six" who were jailed for Irish Republican guerrilla bombings, a campaign has been launched to pardon "the Ambridge One" — otherwise known as pig farmer's wife Susan Carter.

Millions of Britons who had never heard of the fictional County of Borsetshire, have been plunged into a debate about the justice of a six-month jail sentence imposed on the mother of two for helping her robber brother hide from police.

In a campaign that would do credit to village busybody Lynda Snell, posters demanding Susan's release are going up around the country, letters have appeared in the Times and Archers fans have asked Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard to intervene.

Only the characters of the 43-year-old radio serial seem oblivious to the furore raised by its 3.75 million listeners who include such VIPs as the Queen Mother and prime minister's wife Norma Major.

"This isn't a case of reality fusing with fiction, it is a valid campaign," said Jenny Webb, who started the protest following the jailing of Susan Carter two days before Christmas.

"Archers fans want Susan released but they would also like to help other women in prison," Ms. Webb said.

The "Ambridge one" campaign has taken off because it reflects public dismay about recent decisions in which convicted multi-million pound fraudsters have walked free from courts while people unable to pay television licences have been jailed.

It also demonstrates how far The Archers has moved away from its original brief of providing farming information in an accessible form to Britons suffering post-war rationing.

Social issues like homelessness, alcoholism and sexual morality have broken into the quintessentially English rural world of warm beer, cricket on the village green and home-baked scones.

The past 12 months have seen middle-class Elizabeth Archer undergoing an abortion and the graphic seduction of teenager John Archer by single mum Sharon.

Amidst the occasional bout of sheep-dipping and silage making, thirtysomething Shula Hebden has been rushing from her home to hospital clutching sperm samples for a course of test-tube baby treatment.

The robbery at the village shop heard one of the cast utter the word "bloody" to give The Archers its first ever swear word. And rumour has it that Jean-Paul, the French chef at the village hotel, is soon to come out as a homosexual.

Editor Vanessa Whitburn, a former television soap opera producer, is credited for introducing the new spirit of rural realism.

"Certainly the plots have been bumped up and given a tougher edge but today's generation of listeners enjoys tougher story lines," Ms. Whitburn said.

Many listeners have grown up with their ears tuned to the five times a week radio soap which has become such a national institution that some of the cast have formed a fan club.

Membership of "Archers Addicts" has boomed since the Susan Carter storyline with some 1,500 new people signing up in December, bringing membership to around 11,000 in four years.

Fans come from as far afield as France, Germany, Hong Kong, the Falkland Islands, Australia and Japan as well as Britain.

"Initially they may have started listening to improve their English and then they get hooked on it," said fan club spokeswoman Joy Tonkins.

"For every six letters we get that don't like the plots there are another six that say it is wonderful to have brought the show up to date," she said.

Archers Addicts can put faces to the familiar names and voices by visiting the radio recording studios and dancing with the characters at publicity functions such as village fetes.

Last year six of the cast embarked on a three month tour with a play called Murder At Amhridge Hall and entertained holidaymakers on ships and hotels in Scandinavia and Spain.

It's the kind of fame and fortune that Susan Carter, a simple country lass, could only dream of.

"Susan couldn't begin to understand the furore surrounding her case but I think it is great," said Charlotte Martin, the actress who plays her.

"Women like Susan really are being sent to jail and separated from their children. If we can highlight that fact as well as provide good drama, it is all to the good."

Despite achievements, Attenborough is best known for Jurassic Park

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — He had a long career as one of England's best actors. He has earned knighthood from the queen and Academy Awards for directing and producing Gandhi. For all this, Richard Attenborough may be most remembered as the builder of Jurassic Park.

This bothers Sir Richard not a whit. After 50 years at his trade, he knows the value of starring in what is likely to be the most successful movie of all time.

"Probably in that one movie, more people have seen what I've done than in all the other films put together," he mused during a visit here for the opening of his latest film as a director, Shadowlands. He added with a chuckle: "I've done one or two things that were better than that. Not much, though."

Attenborough almost didn't play the pivotal role of John Hammond, the tycoon who replicates dinosaurs for an island attraction. Steven Spielberg previously had asked him to appear in two of his films, but Attenborough was unable to do so.

Spielberg made his plea: "I can't see my way to cast anyone in Jurassic Park until John Hammond is cast. It's the leading part, and I can't see anyone else playing it but you." Spielberg even offered to adjust his schedule to Attenborough's work on final assembly of Chaplin.

Attenborough admitted he succumbed to the flattery — and immediately regretted it.

"I hadn't acted in 14 years," he said. "It's much easier to be a director than an actor. If you're an actor, you've got to get it right. Who's to say whether you got it right as a director? I thought to myself, all those lines to remember.

"Infuriatingly, they were ahead of schedule. I had been promised I would have a day to recover when I arrived (in Kauii). When I got off the plane, they said, 'great news we're ahead of schedule. We need you tomorrow.' I said, 'great news for you, not for me.'"

Always the perfectionist, he remarked that he wished he could do some of his scenes over again. But he had high praise for Spielberg.

"He's marvellous, brilliant. I don't understand, and there's no use denying it, a certain jealousy as far as he's concerned, or a certain lack of warmth towards him in certain areas of Los Angeles. For he's a genius."

Richard Samuel Attenborough was born 70 years ago in Cambridge, where his father was a college president. He won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and soon was appearing in West End plays. An agent took him to Noel Coward, who was seeking fresh faces for his film tribute to the navy, In Which We Serve.

His budding film career was interrupted by the air force, and Attenborough ended up photographing bombing missions over Germany. "That's when I got to know all about cameras," he remarked.

After the war, Attenborough's acting career flourished, both in British films (Brighton Rock, Dunkirk) and American (The Great Escape, The Sand Pebbles). By the mid-1960s, the acting life had paled.

"I was blessed or cursed or whatever with this ridiculous sort of cherubic face," he said. "I played the quivering psychopath on the lower decks of Her Majesty's Navy or something similar. I was typecast, and I got fed up with it. I thought when this disappears, I'd have nothing to survive on. So I went into production."

Attenborough began producing films with Bryan Forbes and turned to directing with Oh What A Lovely War. His 20-year effort to make a film biography of Gandhi paid off in 1982 with eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Director. He has also directed A Bridge Too Far, Young Winston, Cry Freedom and Chaplin.

Richard Attenborough

When asked to analyse why Chaplin failed at the box office, he replied, "I don't know quite why. I do think Chaplin is totally out of fashion. And I think we didn't make as good a film as we ought to have made."

He added that his contract gave him final cut — provided it was no more than 135 minutes. He was forced to eliminate 12 minutes, and he feels that hurt the picture.

The director has bounced back with Shadowlands. Attenborough described the contrast in styles of Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger, the stars of the movie.

"Tony in large measure confines himself in preparation and study.... He'll read the script 100-150 times so that he is so certain in his mind that he never has to think of a line. The script is back here in his head. Immovable. Solid.

"Debra is the opposite. She probably knows more about Joy Gresham (her character) than anyone alive. ...All that, rather like Tony's lines, is lodged in the back of her head. They arrive by different ways. Debra likes rehearsing, Tony doesn't like rehearsing."

Attenborough remembers Hopkins from the time he arrived on the London scene, a bright young actor from the same Welsh village as Richard Burton. Always in Burton's shadow and never reaching his potential, Hopkins had a certain rage. Attenborough believes, "and that was taken over by liquor."

After a long period of floundering, Hopkins conquered his drinking and poured his rage into roles such as his Oscar winner in The Silence of the Lambs.

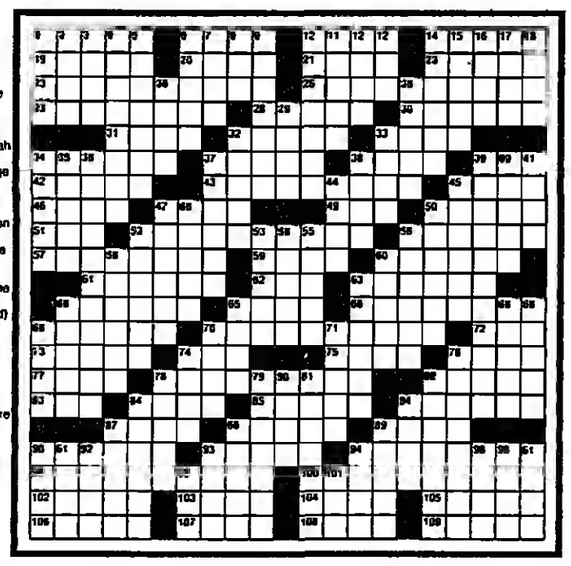
"I have the theory that all great movie stars could blow the screen asunder if they chose, whether they're as dynamic as Edward G. Robinson or James Cagney or Paul Muni or Robert De Niro, or as gentle as Spencer Tracy or Jimmy Stewart," Attenborough said. "You feel that Tony has that."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CROSS WORDS
By Joel Davajan

ACROSS
1 Toward the left side of a ship
6 Treaty
10 The three wise men
14 Heavy cavalry sword
19 Less numb
20 Jar —
21 Touched ground
22 Religious sculpture
23 Antagonistic
25 Ill-natured
27 Noses
28 Acknowledge
30 Amphitheaters
31 Netman Nastase
32 Negatively charged particle
33 Rosebud, e g
34 Stretched the neck
37 Eastwood
38 Entire —
39 Dermer —
42 Lubricated
43 Disgusting
45 Nanny or scape end
46 Boater and skimmer
47 Blessing
49 French season
50 Tropical fruit
51 Small bill
52 Antipathy
56 Woman's garment
57 Flowed
59 Final notice
60 Removed water
61 Church laws
62 Tournament advance without playing
63 Alf or Michael
64 Macaroni and ravioli
65 Phonograph record
66 Acquiesced
69 "Citizen Kane" actor, Joseph
70 Disagreement
72 Gershwin
73 Performed diligently
74 The sun
75 Attention-getter
76 Hockey score
77 Swan genus
78 Combative
82 — celebre
83 Ant. opposite
84 Castle defense
85 Charles and Ephron
86 Commotions
87 Mullah's moolah
88 Barn unit
89 Gypsy language
90 Volcanic rock
93 Wrap
94 Spinal injury
98 Offensive action
100 Hate
102 Metric measure
103 A Bancroft
104 Rouge at —
105 Middle ear bone
106 Medicates
107 — off (enraged)
108 Identical
109 Swarms

DOWN
1 Totals
2 Prudish
3 River to the Seine
4 Takes it easy
5 Fished from a moving boat
6 Chaplain
7 Alack partner
8 Half a French dance?
9 Shakespeare's queen of fairyland
10 Gigantic
11 Actor Delon
12 Young sow
13 Native of Suff
14 Ivy of seeds
15 Was under the weather
16 Has— (Italian idol)
17 Scottish spewer
18 Mild expletive
24 Ogden or Whitelaw
26 Worth
29 Force
32 In association
33 Indefinite amount
34 Some salmon
35 Mirthful
36 Heated quarrel
37 Cirrus and nimbus
38 Memo
39 Belligerent
40 Seethed
41 "Take — leave it"
44 Cult
45 Liquid measure
47 Lament
48 Some tournaments
50 Winless horse
52 Reled
53 Ora pro —
54 Bottomless pit
55 Family circle member
56 Certain cab
58 Certain festival
80 Musical count
63 Cika
64 Cracker coveter?
65 Gherkin herb
67 Expunge
68 Valleys
69 Naval offs.
70 Blockhead
71 Twangy
74 Circus performer
76 Petrol var.
78 Craft
79 Chanted
80 Anthracite
81 City on the Loire
82 Criminal
84 Some runners
86 Comely
87 Street show
88 Gem
89 Task
90 Hairless
91 Exchange premium
92 NCOs
93 — qua non
94 Capricious idea
95 Condition suff.
98 Impure matter
97 Dame Myra —
99 Calendar abbr
101 Dressy scarf



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. In mathematics, the digit nine stands out as our best magic number.
2. Old baker creates roll that resembles a rich cake. It becomes roll model.
3. Peccadilloes of politicians have provided our newspapers with fabulous tidbits.
4. What happening is worse: Rapid ranting or vapid verse?

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JH-LJPCYJVDJEBYC KASCJSTJV JSTI YEI LAHESB TPMI UM ICPVCESB P SJD KPVJJV — LEBYCESB PQQEBPCAVI ES LQAVETP.

—By Earl Ireland

2. SMART SMSHMER' SMMGOAL DUE DIA TAK LTSMR QUICK HM QTCCMK "QMEMHETC QMCMHETGOUA."

—By Ed Huddleson

3. XYZ OXYWWIC SQICYZSC'O QIZ XYZ AO TABBIE YZ XYZOTABBO KIYBZK CIOSCZ AW XYZYOZCSQKAX YXXAEIWZ.

—By Duane H. McGogy

4. YS VETSVSH LAWSOVMAN LYEV HA HUV EAHVM LAWNH HA NVOH UTO LYOV.

—By Eugene T. Maleska

Diagramless 19 x 19. By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 Once around the track
2 Franchot of old films
5 Wandar
6 Crimson
9 Related by blood
10 Dry
11 Affections
12 Kind of justice or license
14 Fleur-de-—
15 Think about days gone by
17 Move with quick motions
20 Diving birds
21 Kind of insect
23 Last
26 Ledger books expert: abbr.
29 Visit
32 Sculls
33 Outer garment
34 Not together
35 Exclusively
37 Allow others to use
38 Tableland
39 Rara —
40 Examine
43 Emmet or pismire
44 Take a tour
46 Gooey stuff
47 Webster or Beery
48 Certain European
50 Think highly of
54 Cut down
55 Herons
56 Cook a particular way
57 Do in
58 Gaelic
59 — Aviv
60 Examine carefully
61 Baseball's Slaughter
62 Sailor

DOWN
1 Resemble
2 Items for blacksmiths
3 Hammer parts
4 Lags behind
6 Hayworth or Coolidge
7 Long story
8 Pack of cards
10 Spider's creation
12 Jab
13 Approves
15 Hardy's movie partner
16 Yours and mine
17 Court order
18 Egg layer
19 Worldwide gp
21 Brag
22 Gumbo ingredient
24 Something that snares
25 Rather of TV
26 Desire
27 Reduce
28 Mimicking one
29 Tibetan monk
30 Ready for business
31 American Indian
33 A pronoun
36 54
37 Revue part
39 Smell —
41 Former secret org
42 Bullfight cheer
44 The best
45 Tries to find
47 Pecan, e.g.
49 Candy
50 For fear that
51 Eye amorously
52 Spoken
53 Fundamental
54 Parking lot for yachts
56 Harass

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

SOLUTION

PUZZLES

CROSS FIT

ACROSS:
1. Hum 3. Relay 4. Wad

DOWN:
1. Hew 2. Mad

The word reading down is AMBULANCE and the six-letter word is CABMEN.

Compromise elusive

(Continued from page 1)

ise.

Israeli radio reported that no progress was made Wednesday. "I hope it will be possible to come closer in Davos, but I am not sure that this meeting will be the last before an agreement," Mr. Beilin told the radio.

An Israeli negotiator, speaking to AFP on condition he was not named, charged that the Palestinians were jumping the gun by insisting on symbols of statehood when the Sept. 13 accord only granted limited interim autonomy.

The tone of the pessimism was shared by the Palestinian side. "There are big problems to be settled and I am not sure that it can be done" in Davos, said Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli Arab adviser to Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres met last Saturday at the funeral in Oslo of former Norwegian Foreign Mioister Johao Joergen Holst, who brokered the self-rule deal, but they failed to make a breakthrough.

Under the autonomy deal for the Gaza City and the West Bank region of Jericho, an Israeli withdrawal was to bave started on Dec. 13, ending on April 13.

"In accordance to the best possible time-table, we will not complete tbe implementation of the agreement that has not yet been reached about Gaza-Jericbo first before mid-April," Mr. Rabin told journalists in Strasbourg.

"Israel will be forthcoming in its quest for peace, but it will not compromise on its security," he said, referring to his country's insistence on having the final say io controlliog the borders with Jordan and Egypt.

"It must be in accordance with the target dates," he said. "There is no sacred date but there are vital goals."

Mr. Peres sought Wednesday to dampen expectations that the Davos meeting would break the deadlock.

But Mr. Peres was optimistic the two sides would eventually settle differences over security and the scope of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"I am sure we shall try very seriously and very hard to reach a settlement but there are no guarantees," Mr. Peres told Reuters in a television interview.

Mr. Peres helped fuel speculation of a breakthrough on Sunday by saying that Israel and the PLO were fairly close to overcoming the differences.

But he tried to hose down the fires of enthusiasm in the Israeli media oo Wednesday.

"I would not put all my fortunes io one weekend," Mr. Peres said. "I do not believe it can be achieved io one jump. Even the Oslo agreemeot took eight months," he added.

Hamas claims attacks

(Continued from page 1)

strained a ceasefire between the two in force since the PLO and Israel signed a peace agreement last September.

The witnesses said Fateh Hawks who discovered that seven of their group had been arrested overnight marched through the streets of Khan Younis, firing shots in the air aod declaring a tbree-day strike in the town of over 100,000 people.

Another 10 Fateh activists were arrested in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City overnight. A total of 49 Fateh supporters have now been arrested in the Gaza Strip since Sunday night, and 22 released after interrogation.

The witnesses said at one stage the Hawks and Israeli troops in Khan Younis stood near each otber shootiog in the air. A Fateb Hawk threw a petrol bomb at an army jeep but a crowd of teenagers then threw stones at the soldiers and the Hawks dispersed without further confrontation.

The Hawks smasbed the windows of shops which did not obey their strike order quickly enough and sprayed a slogan on a mosque wall declaring they would resume armed operations against the Israeli army.

Israeli troops and armed PLO activists bave been locked in an incresingly uneasy standoff in the Gaza Strip even as peacemakers try to hammer out a planned troop withdrawal.

Leaders from both sides say their September peace deal still stands although each side accuses the other of stretching it to breaking point.

Who's afraid of Naomi Wolf ?

Fire with Fire

By Naomi Wolf
Random House, 373 pages
Chatto and Windus, $21

The Morning After

By Katie Roiphe
Little Brown, 180 pages
Hamish Hamilton, $19.95

YOU CAN stop simpering, girls: feminism is fashionable again. Self-assertive statements no longer have to be prefaced by "I'm not a feminist, but..." Two new, post-backlash American women writers, splattered across the covers of glossy magazines on both sides of the Atlantic, have made the F-word more acceptable again.

It seems odd that an idea defined by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) as "advocacy of women's rights on grounds of equality of the sexes" should have fallen into such disrepute that, according to a poll conducted in 1992 in Britain by Cosmopolitan magazine, only 38 per cent of women called themselves feminists. Such a decline has brought comfort to the monstrous regiment of men who, consciously or unconsciously, feared that feminism would succeed in depriving them of even more of their privileges than it already had done.

But men were not to blame for the sorry state into which feminism sank. The problem, as Naomi Wolf points out, started with the movement's hostility to criticism. Fearing attack, feminists declared that group loyalty was more important than intellectual freedom. Maintaining consensus took priority over constructive debate. Feminists prepared to engage in debate with people who disagreed with them found themselves shunned by their friends. Ms. Wolf quotes a lesbian journalist describing the method of discussion at a women's group: "It was sort of fun to cram dogma down the throats of women less politically advanced."

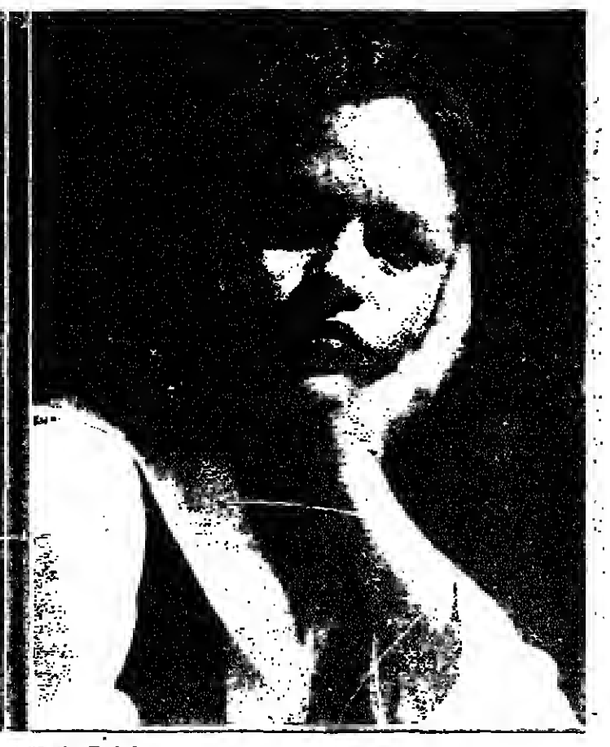
BOOK REVIEW

So the doubters walked away. Left in the care of those who would brook no contradiction, feminism became more extreme. The media hyped its oddities, for it is always more amusing to interview a castrater than a woman who believes tbat the government should finance more child-care for working mothers. And while everybody else moved on, feminism got stuck in the 1960s, with a world view in which collectivism was compulsory and capitalism rotten.

Beginning in the 1970s, with Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, it took a turn which the OED missed. The sexes were no longer equal: women were morally superior but physically weaker. This "victim feminism", all the rage when Katie Roiphe arrived at Harvard in 1986, is the centre of her book, which is causing as much stir as Ms. Wolf's. The victim feminists whom Ms. Roiphe so much despises maintain that women tend towards caring, sharing and the whole gamut of nurturing qualities, while men are mean, muscular and sexually rapacious.

Victim feminism has manifested itself in the date-rape scare. Ms. Roiphe maintains that leftist feminists have inflated the danger of rape, and by exaggerating the risks of being a young woman are turning college students into hysterical prudes. She quotes a campus pamphlet which orders: "Be on your guard with every man." And a similar guide which says: "Never join in any rude plays, that will subject you to being kissed or handled in any way by gentlemen." The latter one was published in 1857. Victim feminism, thus, harks back to an era of female impotence, and in so doing undermines the achievements of the feminists of the previous several centuries.

Naomi Wolf



Katie Roiphe

"Fire with Fire" takes the argument beyond description of what has gone wrong to prescription for the future. Ms. Wolf wants women to realise their potential power. Women, she points out, make up more than half of the American population, and since they do most of the shopping they have economic power too. Yet they get worse jobs than men, get paid less for the same work and are handicapped by the lack of subsidised child-care.

"Power feminism" is what Ms. Wolf advocates: women must assert themselves politically to get what they want. And since all women do not have the same agenda — black women, poor women and rich women probably have more in common with black men, poor men and rich men than they do with one another — she wants an end to compulsory consensus. Feminism should be able to fragment without regret, into groups of women who have their sex and much else in common.

That is fine for the women who will partake in Ms. Wolf's vision — "power groups" of padded-shouldered, networking women, slipping each other contacts and contracts as men have done for so long. But it does not answer the task that Ms. Wolf initially sets herself — of finding a way for women to realise their potential power. Those women who join her groups must be powerful already; and they sure as hell are not going to vote to pay more taxes so that the powerless ones stuck at home can get some child-care to get some work to get some power.

But if Ms. Wolf's prescription is dodgy and the analysis in these two books sensible but not startling, what is all the fuss about? The natural urge of all magazine editors to fill their pages with academically-respectable stuff about sex, probably; the novel idea of feminists who wear make-up; the loopiness of the movement's old leaders, in whose light moderates seem as precious as rubies. And, no doubt, the relief felt by both sexes on being told that you can have feminism as well as a cuddle — Economist.

Hotel Inter.Continental Jordan honours tourism sector

On Monday, Jan. 24, 1994, and under the patronage of His Excellency Ghassan Al Mufleh, under secretary at the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Chawki Ayoub, general manager of Hotel Inter.Continental Jordan hosted a cocktail reception at the hotel's Grand Ballroom. The reception was held in honour of the international airlines representatives and the travel agents. The participants were presented with certificates of appreciation for their role in promoting travel and tourism in Jordan and Hotel Inter.Continental Jordan in specific. Mr. Ayoub said that this honourary reception came as a part of the Hotel Inter.Continental Jordan's continuous efforts to promote the tourism sector in the Kingdom.

Eight of ten top stock markets in '93 were in developing countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 1993 the best place for investors to make money was not in the established stock markets of the United States, Europe or Japan but in the new markets of developing countries.

Poland's three-year-old market topped the ranking released Tuesday by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a unit of the World Bank, with an increase over the year of 717 per cent.

An investor who put $100 into an index of the 22 listed Polisb stocks on Jan. 1, 1993, would have had $817 at the end of the year. The same $100 invested in the U.S. Standard and Poors 500 stock index would have increased to $108. Invested in Japan's Nikkei average, it would have grown to $115.

Following Poland at tbe top of the best-performing market list were Turkey, with a 211 per cent gain, the Philippines with 152 per cent and Indonesia, 112 per cent.

Other emerging country stock markets in the top 10 were Malaysia and Thailand with 107 per cent growth, Zimbabwe, 102 per cent and Pakistan 94 per cent.

"The idea that emerging markets are tulip mania or bubbles is wrong," said Daiel Adams, IFC vice president for capital markets, at a news conference.

He declined to make predictions of particular markets expected to reward investors in 1994 but said overall the 25 emerging country markets which permit foreign investment and are tracked by IFC should do well.

"There's lots of room to go," he said, citing rapid growth in the economies of tbe countries and in profits of their companies.

He also pointed to privatisation of state enterprises and liberalisation of trade, financial services and foreign investment as conducive to continuing growth.

Of developed country markets, only Hong Kong with 109 per cent growth and Luxembourg with 98 per cent growth made the IFC's top ten list.

Mr. Adams said he expected that foreign investment would continue in the developing country stock markets in 1994 and that there was no danger of "too many dollars chasing too few stocks."

He said that foreign ownership of shares in tbe 25 emerging country markets amounted to only four per cent of the total value of the markets, and the highest in any individual market is about six per cent.

"The growth in these markets is not sustained by foreign flows but by domestic investors," he said.

Mr. Adams said, however, that foreign investment has improved the performance of the developing country markets in reporting correct information.

"There has been a revolutionary increase in the information available to international investors," he said.

Census Bureau: U.S. households poorer by nearly $5,000

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hard times and sagging real estate values pulled down the net growth of American households by 12 per cent — that's nearly $5,000 apiece — between 1988 and 1991, the government said Tuesday.

The Census Bureau report also showed that in every category of investment — real estate, retirement and savings accounts — white families in America own much more than black and Hispanic families.

The years covered by the report incuided an eight-month economic recession that cost more than one million workers their jobs.

Falling real estate values caused much of the $4,849 decline in median net worth after accounting for inflation. Rising prices of stocks, cars and trucks, and retirement accounts helped offset losses.

Real estate was America's investment of choice. Fifty-four per cent of the average household's wealth was in a home, rental property or other real-estate holdings.

Savings account and other interest-earning accounts were the second biggest investment: 14 per cent.

The boom years of the 1980s did little to lift Americans' net worth. Households' median net worth in 1988, $41,472, was little changed from the $42,934 recorded in 1984. Both figures were adjusted for inflation.

Median means that half the households and net worth — assets minus liabilities — of more than $41,472 and half had less.

Between 1988 and 1991, the net worth of the median white household plummeted $5,796, while the net worth of black and Hispanic households changed little.

Even so, the nation's largest racial group remains a continent of plenty in a sea of want.

The median white household was worth $44,408. The median black household was worth abbut a tenth of that: $4,604.

Blacks' homes were worth less than two-thirds of whites', their retirement accounts were worth only a third of whites', their savings in interest-earning accounts were worth one-fourth of whites'.

Hispanic households had median net worth of $5,345. Hispanics are a cultural group and can be of any race. Their investment pattern was similar to that of black Americans.

Yeltsin almost doubles civil servants' pay

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has virtually doubled the wages of hundreds of thousands of civil servants, ITAR-TASS news agency said Tuesday. TASS gave no reason for the rise and did not say how much it would cost the government, which is expected to raise spending sharply in 1994 through cheap loans to farmers and ailing state industries. Mr. Yeltsin said in a decree that wages would rise by 90 per cent.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JANUARY 27, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Leo opposes both the Sun and Venus and squares Jupiter creating an inability to express emotions and affections. People become moody and overly sensitive. There are material and domestic difficulties.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your greatest benefits and advancement can come now through dealing with really powerful and influential people in the business world.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are very fortunate in having almost everyone you meet today give you better ideas for getting ahead faster, doing your tasks more efficiently.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An ideal day to take care of bookkeeping and accounting that will put all of your affairs in order and enable you to balance your books.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) It would be well to stop wasting time at usual hobbies and sit down with partners so that you can iron out any differences and make plans for a more profitable future.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now is the time to accomplish a great deal if you will just stop prancing around and get down to business so that you can get the attention of a higwig.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It would be very wise to be practicularly devoted to loved ones now, preferably at some charming place of amusement or where the food is excellent.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be very fundamental in all of your interests today. Find out what associates desire of you. Also, get OK from closest ties before starting any new ventures.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is one of those days when you are able to purchase what ever you need at the right price, so be sure you get an early start.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A particularly fine day to take inventory of all holdings, both personal and real, and then setting up a budget that is more suitable to your requirements.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make it a point to contact those who are in a position to give you the support or assistance you need at this time. Be friendly.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Impresse others with the fact that you are devoted to your family, but also be very sure that credit and practical affairs are in order, if you want to make the most of today's fine aspects.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look to more seasoned and older individuals now for the solution to present problem, whether you find them in the business world or at social affairs.

Pyramid investment funds collapse accross Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Dozens of shadowy pyramid investment funds, once a goldmine for millions of savers, are collapsing like dominoes across Romania, landing their owners in jail and leaving helpless depositors howling with anger.

In the latest of a chain of pyramid fund scandals, police said Wednesday they arrested the owner of the Philadelphia pyramid fund in the oil town of pitesti, west of Bucharest, on charges of "Fraud, embezzlement and fraudulent bankruptcy."

"Ioan Negruta, the boss of the Philadelphia firm, is under arrest. His file is with the proseutors already." Pitesti police spokesman Captain Eduard Ardeleanu told Reuters. No trial date has been set.

Captain Ardeleanu said 250,000 citizens had deposited sums ranging from 12,000 to 60,000 lei ($8 to $41) with Philadelphia.

Last week, angered by a slowdown in pay-outs, thousands of Pitesti citizens marched to Philadelphia's offices and threatened to burn them down.

They threatened to attack the city's mayor, police station and banks, and molested a man suspected of working for Mr. Negruta.

It is yet another blow in a sequence of events which have discredited the pyramid companies that mushroomed in 1993, feeding on people's hopes of getting rich quickly and easily.

Many such schemes have collapsed in the past month. Signs such as "owner away" or "closed for repairs" are often the ruse used by the proprietors to cover their vanishing acts.

Large amounts of cash were mysteriously stolen last weekend from the office of the Caritas Pyramid Company in the city of Cluj, in the Transylvania region, the company which blazed the trail in the money-spinning craze.

Caritas sucked in the equivalent of $1 billion from four million Romanians in its heyday.

The scheme initially paid savers a return of eight times their deposits after three months, an irresistible payback for Romainians with average monthly wages worth $50, inflation of 300 per cent a year and interest rates lagging far behind.

People splurged their gains on expensive new possessions such as fashionable foreign cars. But the tap has run dry.

The owner of Caritas, Ion Stoica, has been lying low under threat of attacks by angry investors wh o have not received a pay-back on their deposits, which they now fear losing.

"We have 30 of these companies in Pitesti. Another four apart from Philadelphia are under attack from their depositors because they are delaying pay-outs," Captain Ardeleanu said.

"Thel rest opened only recently, and they have not yet reached the point of paying out. But anyway the number of depositors at all the firms is tapering off, because of the scandal at Philadelphia."

A report now tith the public prosecutor says one million Romanians have filed complaints to police about pyramid schemes, the daily Evenimentul Zilei newspaper reported.

The total losses expressed in these complaints add up to 9.8 billion lei ($6.7 million). The aggrieved depositors included at least one state-owned bank.

Police in the Black Sea port of Constanta said last week they launched a crackdown on a network of pyramid schemes after savers there made a run on money-spinners' offices and operators vanished with their deposits.

Constanta police arrested one operator and began a manhunt for another who made off with savings of 300,000 people.

World trade grew 3% in '93

GENEVA (R) — World trade expanded by less than three per cent last year, far less than the projected 4.5 per cent, economists at the GATT trade body said Wednesday.

But recent signs of recovery in major west European economies, coupled with the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, give "grounds for optimism" for a recovery in 1994, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said.

The figures general prognosis by staff economists were contained in a speech to GATT's 115 contracting parties (member states), delivered by Indian Trade Ambassador Balkrishan zutshi.

Mr. Zutshi, a respected negotiator who often speaks on behalf of development countries, serves as chairman of the annual session.

In volume terms, world trade grew by less than three per cent in 1993, down from four per cent in the previous year, according to GATT economists.

The GATT's previous estimate for 1993, released last March by the then director-general Arthur Dunkel, forecast trade growth of 4.5 per cent last year.

World output growth was up slightly last year to just above two per cent, according to the latest GATT figures.

Ivory Coast signs letter of intent with IMF

ABIDJAN (R) — Ivory Coast signed a letter of intent with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tuesday paving the way for fresh funds to accompany devaluation of the CFA franc.

Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said Ivory Coast was the first of the CFA zone countries to sign an accord following the 50 per cent devaluation of the currency on Jan. 12.

The new structural adjustment facility is worth $470 million over three years.

"The programme that has just been agreed for three years forms a coherent economic framework, reconciling what is desirable and what is possible, retaining acceptable financial constraints, promoting targeted development, committed to reducing social imbalances," Mr. Duncan said.

The IMF froze Ivory Coast's credits in June 1992 after a visiting mission decided the government was not meeting agreed criteria.

The accord opens the way for fresh cash from international institutions and for negotiations on Ivory Coast's $20 billion foreign debt.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JANUARY 28, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Obtain whatever information you need by searching for it in the right place. Go directly to the main source without forcing your viewpoint or will on others. Some answers could prove upsetting given today's aspects.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get all business matters taken care of early so that you can later confer with progressive and enlightened higher-ups who are anxious to give you ideas that will help you to get ahead faster.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Read your paper thoroughly for the excellent ideas you will find therein. Have an attitude of worldines about you in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sure your associate approves of practical plans you now have in mind. Then carry through with them in the most modern of methods.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Clear up any important work early in the morning so that you can then be with progressive associates to carry through with any plans that will bring in finer benefits in the future.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make it a point to take personal treatments or improve appearance early in the morning so that you do not have to take the time later when you are in the midst of some important business deal.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) By taking interest in people around you this morning, you will learn of new gadgets and systems that will help you to save time and energy in connection with your duties in the future.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Morning is the best time to learn what kin require of you and to do your best to satisfy them. Later, get into the business world and use your nature ingenuity.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to get work or shopping done early so that you can then be with closest of kin for whatever activities they have planned for enjoyment.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Morning is the best time to handle monetary affairs as best suits you. Then you are able to call on trade, or confer with any and all who are vital to your best interest at this time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think carefully just what it is you want to accomplish in the future and then take the steps that will lead you in such direction most quickly and successfully.

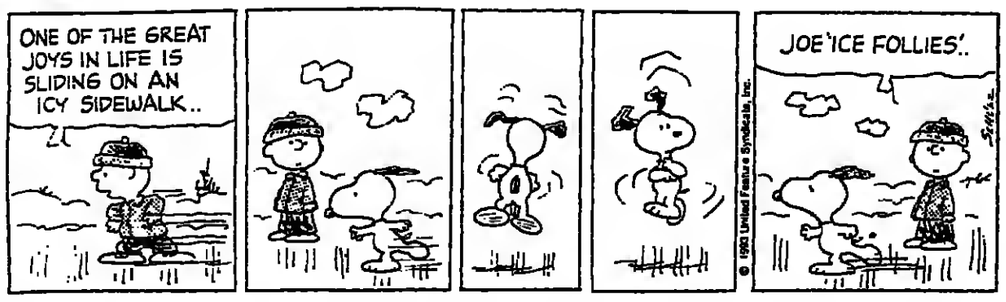
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Decide early what you want to do, then off to pleasures of cultural activities in a happy and positive fashion for your enjoyment of life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can accomplish much this morning if you get advice from friendly higher-up. Later, also get the approval of experts and those close to you.

THE BETTER HALF® By Harris

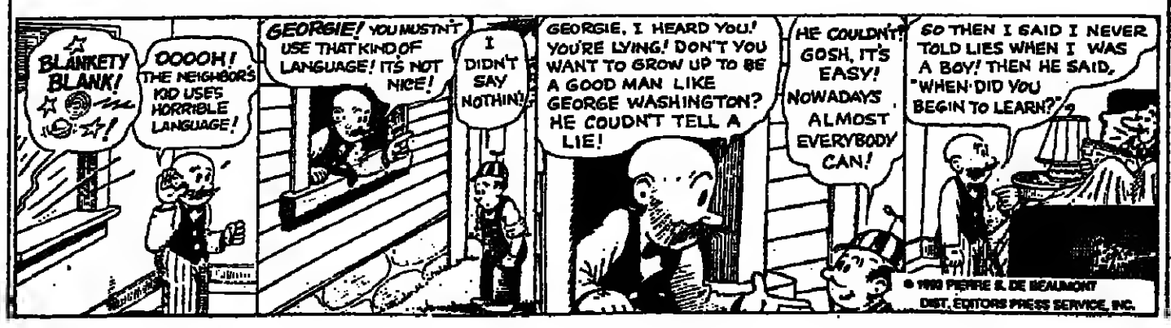
"The woman who sold me this toupee says I look as cute as one of those Troll dolls!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KEHRI

TYSUL

COBIED

CRUVSY

WHAT THE RURAL VISITOR FOUND IN THE URBAN STORE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

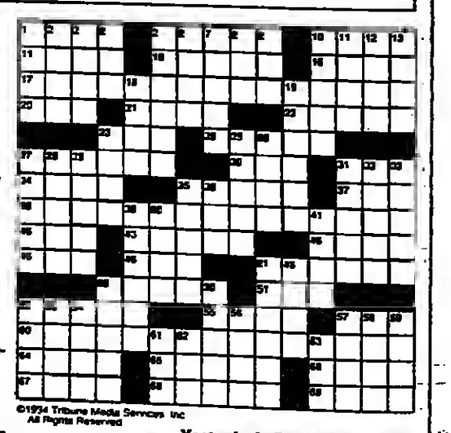
Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TANGY ELATE BECALM LEEWAY

Answer: What the Australian wife called her tardy husband — HER LATE MATE

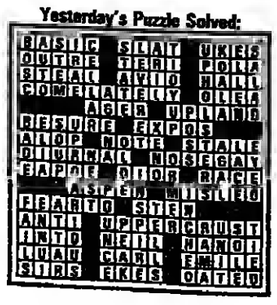
THE Daily Crossword by Harold S. Counts



ACROSS
1 Present
5 Suit material
10 Start quote
14 Distant
15 Adoree of the silents
16 Muslim prince
17 More of quote
20 Lidvium
21 Cost per unit
22 Relative size of two quantities
23 Tiny amount
24 Arrested
27 Group of stars
30 Lettuce variety
31 Hoover, e.g.
34 Came to earth
35 Greene of TV
37 Wallet item
38 More of quote
42 — West
43 Kathie Lee's co-host
44 Melody
45 More of quote
46 — Farrow
47 End quote
49 Shopping places
51 Large deer
52 Dieter's dish
55 Girasol
57 Mischievous creature
60 Person quoted
64 Otherwise
65 Loosen
66 General's go-fer
67 Darn!
68 Chide
69 Rendezvous

DOWN
1 "The Ballad of Reading —" (Wilde)
2 Suppositious
3 Renown
4 Attempt
5 Pact
6 Occident
7 Register
8 Squiggly one
9 Low grade
10 Town on the Meuse
11 Leave out
12 Kind of skirt
13 Hence
18 — scale (kind of sugar measure)
19 Gone up
23 Balneation
25 Farm measures
26 Not any
27 — ray
28 "— and hungry look"
29 Walloped a baseball
31 Exits
32 Actress Dickinson
33 Flat-topped elevations
35 Valid
36 Japanese sash
39 Fleet of ships
40 Cloak
41 Unit
47 Excited
48 Earthenware pot
49 Labyrinths
50 — voce
52 Visionary
53 — brave
54 Catalogue
56 TV's Donahue
57 Mr. Wiesel
58 Mineral vein
59 Complain
61 School vehicle
62 Item in an envelope: abbr.
63 Sweet potato

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Bankruptcies in Sweden declined 12% last year

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The number of bankruptcies filed in Sweden during 1993 dropped 12 per cent compared to 1992, the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics (SCB) has announced. The total number of bankruptcies during the year amounted to 19,845, according to bankruptcies. 18,731 were filed by companies, also a decrease of 12 per cent compared to 1992. The remaining 1.114 bankruptcies were filed by private persons, a nine per cent drop compared to 1992. According to SCB, 74 companies filed for bankruptcy per work day in 1993, compared to 85 per day in 1992 and 19 per day in 1982.

Jordan's banking sector employs about 12,000 persons

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Commercial and investment banks and specialised credit institutions in Jordan had a total of 11,530 employees at the end of last year compared to about 10,000 at the end of 1992, according to a survey conducted by the Jordan Times earlier this month.

The findings of the survey show that the Arab bank and the Housing Bank employed nearly 35.1 per cent of the Kingdom's banking staff.

The Arab Bank led with 2,060 employees, spread over 66 branches and offices in Jordan while the Housing Bank had 1,991 employees working in 107 branches and offices throughout the Kingdom.

Bank of Jordan and Jordan Islamic Bank came in third and fourth places, with staff numbering 960 and 900 respectively, although the Bank of Jordan operated 62 branches and offices compared to only 27 branches run by the Jordan Islamic Bank.

The four other banks whose staff exceeded 500 employees were Jordan National Bank, Cairo Amman Bank, Jordan Kuwait Bank and Jordan-Gulf Bank.

The Jordan National Bank had 780 employees working at 33 branches and offices.

The Cairo Amman Bank had 739 people working at 22 branches and offices. Jordan Kuwait Bank employed 635 persons at its 22 branches and offices and Jordan-Gulf Bank employed 507 persons at 27 branches and offices.

Employing less than 100 persons were Bait Al Mal (Baituna), which had a staff of about 50, working at six branches, and the Rafidain Bank, which also employed about 50 workers at three branches.

52 persons worked at Citibank's only branch in Jordan, 82 at Jordan Investment and Finance Bank's three branches, 85 at the ten branches of the Cooperative Bank and 90 at the two branches of Philadelphia Bank.

Aside from the Central Bank of Jordan and the Postal Saving Fund, the rest of the banks ranked as follows:

Name of bank	Number of employees	Number of of branches
Arab Land Bank	456	18
Agricultural Credit Organisation	267	36
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	285	12
Union Bank for Saving & Inv.	243	11
Business Bank	222	7
British Bank of the M.E.	182	5
ANZ Grindlays Bank	180	14
Arab Banking Corporation	175	7
Industrial Development Bank	164	3
Amman Bank for Investment	132	4
Middle East Bank for Investment	128	18
Cities and Villages Develop. Bank	119	2

Senior banker and analyst Mufleh Aqel told the Jordan Times that the number of employees in the Kingdom was too high.

He said he could not provide accurate data but the amount of bank assets per employee in Jordan was extremely low, compared to the banking sector of other countries.

"The assets per emoloyee in western countries are about three times the figure for Jordan," he pointed out.

Analyst Ahmad Nammari held a different view to support his argument that banks in Jordan should at least hire an additional 1,000 people.

"Bankers' job is sensitive and requires hig[illegible]tiveness and accuracy and, as such, bank employees shou[illegible] be put under pressure," he said.

Moreover, he stressed that banks often de[illegible]e to free some of their staff to attend training courses or other functions "because they are indispensable."

Japanese firms slash more than 80,000 jobs

TOKYO (AFP) — About 740 Japanese companies listed on the Tokyo stock market work forces by 88.423 last year in response to the business slump, a credit research institute has said. A survey by Tokyo Shoko Research Co. found that 738 of the 1.664 companies listed in the first and second sections of the Tokyo Stock Exchange had slashed their work forces in 1993. Telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. reduced the number of its workers by 12,799, while major carmakers Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. cut its work forces by 2.220 and 2.348 respectively, the research firm said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 660110. / 662170
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 26/01/1994

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	80,720	192.000	192.000	192.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	255,268	0.000	8.180	8.020
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	50,000	43.470	44.000	44.000
BANK OF JORDAN	19,611	4.820	4.500	4.840
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	0,007	2.100	3.100	2.090
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	189,543	2.110	2.150	2.080
THE HOUSING BANK	473,305	6.130	6.400	6.260
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	452,415	2.230	3.350	2.350
JORDAN GULF BANK	619,046	2.100	2.140	2.080
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	6,450	4.250	4.300	4.300
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	14,009	4.810	4.660	4.850
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	39,116	5.200	5.250	5.200
BUSINESS BANK	19,001	4.680	4.640	4.480
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	15,400	2.700	7.700	7.180
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGSINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2,292	4.850	4.500	4.770
ARBAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,104,296	2.010	2.020	2.050
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	5,000	9.000	5.000	5.000
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	46,889	2.440	2.450	2.450
JORDAN INSURANCE	3,500	2.900	2.980	2.900
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	22,731	3.660	2.680	2.690
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	12,738	4.560	4.650	4.560
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	3,000	2.000	2.000	3.000
AL-NISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	480	4.850	4.850	4.850
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	132,944	2.440	2.450	2.420
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	921	1.210	1.230	1.330
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	43,171	7.400	7.500	2.380
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	0,845	4.980	5.000	5.050
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	2,110	2.160	2.120	2.180
JORDAN TOURISM & UPA COMPLEX	1,606	0.095	0.870	0.860
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	44,611	4.080	4.100	4.080
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	5,125	1.640	1.650	1.640
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	10,126	1.120	1.180	1.120
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	2,888	13.500	13.500	13.650
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSOCOORE HOTELS	125,115	2.280	2.280	2.260
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	26,512	2.440	2.410	1.440
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1,380	20.000	50.000	30.000
ATTAWEEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2,138	2.120	1.720	1.710
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	169,101	2.060	2.090	2.080
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	701	1.180	2.120	2.150
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	44,421	10.450	10.450	10.450
JORDAN TANNING	700	1.450	1.450	1.480
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	1,075	3.100	2.150	2.150
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	7,448	7.560	7.500	7.500
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	212,500	12.650	12.300	12.460
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	621,114	8.160	8.150	8.040
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	2,536	6.770	6.700	6.680
JORDAN DAIRY	5,450	3.150	1.180	3.150
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	13,751	2.180	2.750	2.720
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	4,600	4.180	4.500	4.500
SPINNING & WEAVING	6,451	1.770	2.350	2.780
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	4,016	2.400	2.300	2.300
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	12,641	0.350	0.250	0.250
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	218,849	16.850	16.500	16.850
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	12,279	2.290	2.280	2.340
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	120,618	10.150	10.160	10.160
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	8,361	0.380	0.390	0.390
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	21,126	5.250	6.250	6.250
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	42,018	2.580	2.580	2.490
JORDAN WOODWOOL INDUSTRIES	6,868	2.160	2.180	2.150
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	6,621	1.220	1.220	1.220
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	0.150	0.250	0.240	0.240
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	9,324	7.000	7.780	7.150
JORDAN ROLFHO-CHEMICALS	4,883	2.500	2.500	2.450
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	18,025	3.250	3.240	2.240
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	2,096	1.280	1.270	1.280
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	105,802	5.890	5.890	5.660
GRAND TOTAL	6,720,240			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 194603
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : JD 239619

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 26/1/94

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.25	3.65
Sterling Pound	5.37	5.25	5.25	5.18
Deutsche Mark	6.06	5.87	5.56	5.25
Swiss Franc	4.06	3.93	3.81	3.56
French Franc	6.31	6.15	5.87	6.50
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.12	2.00	1.96
European Currency Unit	6.50	6.31	5.93	5.62

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 26/1/94

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	381.05	7.700	Silver	5.10	0.115

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 26/1/94

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.704	0.706
Sterling Pound	1.0523	1.0576
Deutsche Mark	0.4027	0.4047
Swiss Franc	0.4796	0.4820
French Franc	0.1157	0.1193
Japanese Yen*	0.6376	0.6408
Dutch Guilder	0.3598	0.3616
Swedish Krona	—	—
Italian Lira*	0.0414	0.0416
Belgian Franc	—	—

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 26/1/94

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8480	1.8630
Lebanese Lira*	0.040675	0.041675
Saudi Riyal	0.1874	0.1883
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3490	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.19110	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.205	0.220
Omani Riyal	1.8050	1.8210
UAE Dirham	0.19110	0.1920
Greek Drachma*	0.2750	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.3325	1.3775

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. $1.00 costs	1.3123/33	Canadian dollar
	1.7466/76	Deutschemarks
	1.9574/84	Dutch guilders
	1.4702/12	Swiss francs
	36.11/15	Belgian francs
	5.9310/60	French francs
	1697.3/8.8	Italian lire
	110.60/70	Japanese yen
	7.9560/60	Swedish crowns
	7.5030/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.7890/40	Danish crowns
One sterling	$1.4955/65	
One ounce of gold	$381.00/381.40	

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Fyodorov quits, says he will fight to death for Russia

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Fyodorov quit as Russia's finance minister after a week's hesitation, warning of a speeded economic revolution and telling President Boris Yeltsin he was ready to defend Russia's interests "to the death."

Mr. Fyodorov's dramatic statement came shortly after half-hour Kremlin talks Tuesday that sealed his fate. Mr. Yeltsin, according to Mr. Fyodorov's account to Interfax News Agency, was unwilling to accept his terms for staying in government.

"You can't throw everything away at a time like this, you cannot walk away," Mr. Fyodorov quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying.

Mr. Fyodorov said he told Mr. Yeltsin, who brought him into the cabinet last December to push through reforms: "as soon as the situation changes, I am always at your disposal."

But Mr. Fyodorov said Russia faced black days under a new government he would fuel rampant inflation.

"The threat of a social explosion is moving from the realm of theory to the realm of reality," he said.

The president was forced, in effect, to choose between Mr. Fyodorov, seen in the West as a symbol of reform, and the minister's sworn political enemies, conservative central banker Viktor Gerashchenko and Agrarian leader Alexander Zaveryukha.

Mr. Fyodorov had demanded their sacking as a condition of his remaining in office.

"Boris Nikolayevich an economic coup is taking place in the country, a slide backwards. All hopes are on you along.

"It's not a question of Fyodorov, who is always ready to return and defend Russian interests to the death. It is a question of the fate of the country, which is being decided in these days, these hours," he told Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Fyodorov told Interfax some ministers now exercising power in the government had done "colossal harm" to the country and were "open opponents of reform."

"In conditions of a market economy, the dominance in the cabinet of lifeless and illiterate state planning ideology, and of red managers, inevitably dooms the country to collapse and the people to a fall in living standards."

Mr. Fyodorov said "ukrainianisation" had crossed the border into Russia — a reference to hyperinflation and economic collapse in neighbouring Ukraine.

He said he could not sit in one government with "ideological enemies."

Mr. Fyodorov said Mr. Yeltsin had suggested he might meet his condition of removing Mr. Gerashchenko at a later date.

"No one and nothing is eternal," he quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying. "Not even V. Gerashchenko."

But Mr. Fyodorov had clearly decided that the power struggle between conservatives and radicals over reform had taken a decisive turn to the benefit of his rivals.

Many radicals had hoped Mr. Yeltsin's dissolving of parliament in September and consequent crushing of a rebellion had brought them a final victory. Wednesday's comments by Mr. Fyodorov exposed this as an illusion for those who still had doubts.

"Fyodorov really was the last reformer left, and while he stayed there was always some hope that policies would be geared to stability" said a Western diplomat. "There does not seem to be much chance of that any more."

Economists expect a successor to Mr. Fyodorov to match the approach of centrist Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who says "market romanticism" has had its day.

One man tipped for the job is former commnnist bureaucrat Vladimir Shcherbakov, a pragmatic rather than radical economist.

Mr. Shcherbakov told Reuters Tuesday he had not been approached with any job offer. But he said monetarist methods to control inflation had to be supplemented by "organisational methods on the part of the state."

"It is not Central Bank emission which is the main reason for inflation but the wrong structure of production," he said. "It is not realistic to expect financial stabilisation in the next two or three months."

In comments in tune with the thinking of the industrialists who now dominate Russia's government team, he said: "Without production there can be no stabilisation. But you cannot achieve it by popular measures.

Britain's Prince Charles (right) is shielded by a bodyguard as a man (in white shirt on the left) is bundled to the ground after firing blank shots at the royal visitor Wednesday (AFP photo)

Man fires blanks at Prince Charles

SYDNEY (AP) — A man ran out of a crowd and fired two blanks from a starter's pistol at Britain's Prince Charles Wednesday.

The prince, 45, was startled but unhurt. No one else was harmed.

The man ran about 30 metres from the crowd and onto a stage where the prince was about to speak to more than 10,000 people at outdoor celebrations marking Australia's National Day.

Security guards wrestled the man to the ground only feet (metres) from the prince, who was immediately shielded by police and whisked off the platform, where a choir and band were also seated.

New South Wales State Premier John Fahey and Australian of the Year Ian Kiernan, who received an award only minutes earlier, pounced on the man as he ran towards the prince, said Sydney Lord Mayor Frank Sartor.

"The prince was obviously shaken but later appeared gracious and said something to the effect of: 'Don't worry about it, these things happen'," Mr. Sartor said.

Other startled dignitaries were knocked from their seats in the melee.

Police confirmed the man fired a starting pistol twice. Such pistols carry paper blanks and are normally used to start races at athletic meets.

The name of the man has not been released. No further details were released by police.

An AP correspondent saw the man and witnessed the incident. The man appeared to be in his 20s, was dressed in a white shirt and trousers and had short black hair.

The man fired one blank into the air as he stood. Smoke from the gun rose into the air as a loud cracking noise rang out and the crowd gasped.

He then jumped a low barricade and ran towards the stage.

He appeared to be aiming at the prince as he fired the second blank just as the heir to the British throne rose from his seat and moved towards a microphone to begin his speech.

The incident was over within three minutes.

The prince continued with a prepared speech to a crowd made up mainly of families, including hundreds of children waving Australian flags, seated on the grass lawn.

The prince began by joking about how pleased he was to be in Australia.

He then held a scheduled prize-giving ceremony to school children. More celebrations were scheduled for Wednesday night, including fireworks.

Japan ruling coalition offers concessions to save reforms

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling coalition floated concessions to the opposition Wednesday in a desperate bid to salvage the core of the Hosokawa government's imperilled anti-corruption reforms by a weekend deadline.

A draft released as the formal horse-trading began showed the coalition moving closer to a rival reform blueprint put up by the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in November.

That was when the lower house passed the government package, only for the upper house to reject its last Friday, throwing national politics into turmoil.

The LDP, meanwhile, appeared deeply split and incapable of playing a constructive role.

While the party leadership further raised the stakes, setting ever harsher conditions for its cooperation, a leading pro-reform member indicated that he and like-minded LDP lawmakers might cross the floor if compromise efforts failed.

Opinion polls consistently show a big majority in favour of changing an electoral system heavily weighted against Japan's millions of urban residents, and of slapping tight curbs on the way politicians have routinely taken payoffs from big business.

For large sections of the LDP, however, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's reforms would dash any hopes the party has of regaining power. The pro-business party governed Japan for 38 years until being voted out of power last July after a spate of corruption scandals.

Yet the political impasse is damaging the LDP's reputation, even with its old business sector supporters who have been crucial economic legislation delayed by the reform logjam.

"It's so strange that there is such strong opposition (to reform) in the LDP even though the party spent as many as six years deliberating the issue," said Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), in a letter to LDP chief Yohei Kono.

Mr. Nagano warned Mr. Yohei the LDP would be ridiculed at home and abroad.

S. African parties set new deadline

PRETORIA (R) — South Africa's major political players agreed to make one more bid to bring the right wing into the country's first all-race elections in April.

The right-wing Freedom Alliance reported a stalemate after talks with the government and the African National Congress (ANC) but said a further meeting would be held Thursday.

"We have come to the end of the road as far as negotiations are concerned... we believe there is no real sense in moving forward with the negotiation process," Alliance spokesman Rowan Cronje told reporters.

He said ANC delegate Thabo Mbeki had promised to submit written proposals Thursday, representing the "last chance" for a deal under which the Freedom Alliance would take part in the election, to be held over three days from April 27.

Mr. Mbeki gave a slightly more optimistic assessment of Tuesday's meeting.

"I wouldn't describe it as a breakdown. There is movement forward," he said.

Government representative Roelf Meyer, the minister of constitutional development, said the door would always remain open for negotiations.

President F.W. De Klerk said negotiations with the right could continue even after the vote in April.

U.S. to send Patriots to S. Korea

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is planning to send Patriot missiles to South Korea to defend against possible missile attack from North Korea, senior Clinton administration officials said Tuesday.

"They (the White House) are leaning towards a favourable decision," said one of the officials, confirming a New York Times report that General Gary Luck, the senior American commander in Korea, had requested the Patriots.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, stressed that the move was not designed to be provocative or used by Washington as a trump card in nuclear with North Korea.

They said that President Bill Clinton has made no final decision, but that the move was supported by the Pentagon and was expected to gain his approval.

The Patriots were used with some success in the Gulf War to shoot down Iraqi Scud missiles fired at Saudi Arabia and Israel, and could be used against North Korean tactical missiles believed targeted against Seoul and other points in South Korea.

"It is something that they (South Koreans) would like to have for their defensive posture," said one administration official. "There is work in progress on the issue but this is not seen as something that is provocative in the talks. It is something that the commanders in the field have asked for."

He said that consideration of sending the Patriots arose only in recent weeks.

One official said about three dozen Patriot launchers would be sent to South Korea.

North Korea has threatened to suspend the armistice on the Korean peninsula if the United States pushed for economic sanctions to put pressure on Pyongyang to end its nuclear weapons programme.

If North Korea attacked South Korea, U.S. intelligence officers said, it would launch Scud missiles at South Korean airfields and ports. Patriot batteries would improve the protection of those airfields and ports and reduce North Korea's ability to make a successful pre-emptive attack, the officials said.

The Patriot is designed to protect airfields and other military bases by knocking incoming missiles off course or destroying them in flight.

The Times quoted Brigadier-General Robert Jenkins, commander of the 51st Fighter Wing Command based at Osan Air Base in South Korea, as saying "it would make some sense to pre-position Patriots" in South Korea.

The United States has 36,000 troops in Korea.

One senior American military official said some State Department officials had been wary of sending the missiles to South Korea, apparently fearing the move could upset talks with the North Koreans on ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, the newspaper said.

As a result, administration officials had been discussing a plan under which the Patriots would be shipped to Japan, from where they could quickly moved to South Korea in a crisis, the newspaper said. But that idea was determined to be impractical and was dropped, administration officials said.

The United States may have to confront North Korea, possibly with force, sometime in the next year, a lawmaker who heads a defence funding panel said Tuesday.

Clinton to seek $6.6b more for quake victims

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton was set to ask Congress for a massive aid package for Los Angeles, but this would only scratch the surface of the $30 billion plus needed to rebuild the earthquake-ravaged area.

Budget director Leon Panetta said President Clinton will ask Congress to approve another $6.6 billion in fresh aid for Los Angeles on top $897 million already committed.

California Governor Pete Wilson has said the Jan. 17 quake was costlier than the $30 billion hurricane Andrew in 1992.

The quake-related death toll stood at 60, including two people killed last week in a helicopter accident while inspecting a damaged oil pipeline.

It destroyed more than 14,000 housing units, leaving more than 25,000 homeless. More than 8,000 have been injured. To date, about 40,000 people have applied for some form of aid.

Only about 25 per cent of homes and businesses in the region have earthquake insurance because it is very expensive, meaning a good deal of the total losses will be borne by individuals and businesses.

Mr. Panetta said Mr. Clinton was expected to send the request to Congress Wednesday and urged approval as soon as possible.

The federal money was slated to cover a variety of needs such as reconstruction of roads, schools, and loans to get small businesses back on their feet.

While the promise of federal aid was heartening, Angelenos were growing increasingly weary of nightmarish traffic jams that are turning one-hour commutes into three- and four-hour drives as more and more commuters venture out.

On a brighter note, schools reopened for the first time since the quake struck. Textbooks were put on the side as students and teachers discussed their experiences in the quake, which measured 6.6 on the open-ended Richter Scale, the worst to strike the area in more than two decades.

Parents were nervous about leaving children at school but admitted going back was a good way to return to a normal life.

More findings were revealed to explain why the quake's damage was so severe. Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) called the Northridge earthquake a double rupture.

"There were actually two ruptures of the earth, and while it is technically incorrect to say there were two earthquakes, it had the same effect," said USGS seismologist Dave Wald.

Earthquake victims living in makeshift shelters and tent cities spent Tuesday drying off after an overnight rain.

Water and electricity were restored to most residents.

Meanwhile, a mild earthquake hit north-central Nebraska in the midsection of the United States, rattling windows and shaking some dishes off shelves, officials said.

"It lasted about a second and felt about like a sonic boom," Keya Paha County Sheriff Gary sell said Tuesday. He was in Springview, a few miles from the epicentre of the earthquake that hit at 8:45 p.m. Monday (0145 GMT Tuesday).

There were reports from across the country from people who felt the tremor, which the U.S. Geological Survey said measured 3.3 on the open-ended Richter Scale.

The quake's epicentre was 25 kilometres northwest of Ainsworth, said Pat Jorgenson of the Geological Survey in Menlo Park, Calif.

FEMALE-WOMEN POLICE STATION: Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto (2nd from left) inspects the guard of honour at the first female police station in Rawalpindi. Ms. Bhutto said the plan was part of her agenda to uplift women in society. More such stations are to set up in other cities of Punjab, home to 60 per cent of Pakistan's 120 million people, ahead of extending the scheme to other regions of the country. Ms. Bhutto told the gathering, which included top officials and diplomats, that her three-month old government was launching a comprehensive programme for women's participatinn in the judicial, banking, commercial and industrial sectors. She said all-female police stations would help provide relief and justice to women and set an example for the entire Islamic World (AFP photo).

Clinton puts crime, health and welfare atop agenda

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton put fighting crime and reforming health care and welfare atop his agenda in a State of the Union speech aimed at bolstering Democrats in November's congressional elections.

Enjoying a 60 per cent public opinion rating, his highest after a difficult first year in office, Mr. Clinton used his address to a joint session of congress to kick off a boisterous year of debate on critical domestic issues.

In one key segment of his 63-minute speech, Mr. Clinton staked continued claim to a traditionally Republican issue — being tough on crime — which has risen to the top of Americans' concerns in polls given improvements in the U.S. economy.

" violent crime and the fear it provokes are crippling our society, limiting personal freedom and fraying the ties that bind us," he said.

He endorsed approval of a provision of an anti-crime bill that passed the Senate last November which makes life imprisonment mandatory for anyone convicted three times of violent crimes.

The Senate bill provides $22 billion to hire 100,000 local police [illegible] prisons and cam[illegible] offenders. [illegible]

legislation that does not guarantee health benefits for all Americans.

His refusal to compromise on the fundamental issue marked the dramatic high point of his speech, since he has never before threatened a veto.

"Hear me clearly," Mr. Clinton said, waving a pen. "If the legislation you send me does not guarantee every American private health insurance that can never be taken away, I will take this pen, veto that legislation, and we'll come right back here and start over again."

Mr. Clinton otherwise left the door wide open for compromise on a complex reform plan that would set up state-run health alliances . require employers to buy insurance for workers and ensure that coverage not be denied due to pre-existing medical conditions.

The president's proposed sweeping overhaul of the country's expensive and inefficient health insurance system — to extend coverage to 37 million uninsured Americans — would mark the biggest social change since lifetime social security pension benefits resulted from the great depression.

By coupling it with welfare reform, he played to the broad U.S. middle class and tried to seize the political high ground on domestic policy going into next November's mid-term elections.

Thirty-four of the 100 Senate and all 435 House seats are at stake in the elections which will set the stage for Mr. Clinton's own expected reelection bid in 1996.

Some members of Congress feared Mr. Clinton was trying to do too much at the same time by tackling health care and welfare reform, particularly when many members will be diverted by their reelection campaigns.

But Mr. Clinton said the two issues were to related to put off. He said one million people are on welfare today because it is the only way to get health care coverage for their children.

"I know it will be difficult to tackle welfare reform in 1994 at the same time we tackle health care. But let me point out, I think it is inevitable and imperative," he said.

Nonetheless, Mr. Clinton's budget director Leon Panetta admitted to reporters Tuesday that welfare reform legislation would take until April to write and he did not yet know how the administration would pay for it.

President Clinton said Tuesday he was watching Russia's reform effort with patience and vigilance and clarified a policy controversy by saying Russian troops shoul only operate in neighbouring countries with permission.

Mr. Clinton said it was in America's best interest to encourage democracy in Russia and its former satellite states in Eastern Europe in order to "ensure our security and build a durable peace."

But Mr. Clinton, in a clear nod to rising nationalism in Russia and the blow the Russian reform movement has taken in recent days, said:

"Our support of reform must combine patience, for the enormity of the task, and vigilance, for our fundamental interests and values. We will continue to urge Russia and the other states to press ahead.

Since Mr. Clinton left Moscow 10 days ago after a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the main architect of Russia's economic reform, Yegor Gaidar, has quit the cabinet, saying it was no longer committed to radical change.

Mr. Clinton also said the United States would seek to cooperate with Russia to solve regional problems but would insist that if Russian troops operate in neighbouring states, "they do so only when those states agree to their presence, and in strict accord with international standards."

This was an effort to clarify a statement he made in Moscow on a television broadcast to millions of Russians.

There, he said there would be times when the Russian military would likely "be involved in some of these areas near you, just like the United States has been involved in the last several years in Panama and Grenada near our area."

His comment went beyond official U.S. policy, prompting some Russian analysts in Washington to accuse Mr. Clinton of blessing Russian intervention in other former Soviet republics.

Criminal Probe now focus of Jackson sex case

LOS ANGELES (R) — The criminal investigation into allegations that pop superstar Michael Jackson sexually molested a young boy continued Wednesday despite a settlement in the boy's civil lawsuit. The settlement of the case, announced Tuesday by lawyers for both sides, set Los Angeles abuzz with rumours of what it had cost Jackson and whether he was paying the boy for his silence. The lawyers refused to discuss the financial aspects of the deal, but it was widely reported that it could be anywhere from $5 million to $100 million. Bert Feldman, the attorney representing the 14-year-old boy who claims he was seduced and molested by Jackson in 1992, would say only that the agreement did not prevent his client from testifying in a criminal case against the entertainer. Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti said he was pressing ahead with a criminal investigation into the boy's allegations despite the settlement. Garcetti said the probe of the singer's alleged activities would continue and indicated that if charges were pressed, the boy would be called to testify. "The criminal investigation of singer Michael Jackson is ongoing and will not be affected by the announcement of the civil case settlement. "The district attorney's office is taking Mr. Feldman at his word that the alleged victim will be allowed to testify and that there has been no agreement in the civil matter that will effect cooperation in the criminal investigation," Garcetti said in a written statement.

Actress collapses after losing libel suit of sex romp

LONDON (AFP) — A popular British soap opera star collapsed and was taken to hospital Tuesday after losing a libel suit against a newspaper that reported she and her boyfriend had sex in a car parked on a public road. Gillian Taylforth, 37, who with Geoff Knights, 39, could now be made to pay court costs of over £500,000 ($750,000), was described in stable condition. The jury reached its 10-2 verdict after five hours' deliberation. The case, celebrated here and abroad, turned on whether the jury believed a policeman who said he had witnessed the couple engaged in oral sex in a Range Rover parked on an A-1 slip-road in June 1992. Taylforth, who plays the character Kathy Beale in the BBC soap Eastenders, and Knights, who live together and have a young daughter, denied there had been any sex. Their story was that he got stomach cramps as she was driving them home after a day at the races during which he had drunk heavily. She pulled to the side of the road. He tried to ease the pain by undoing his trousers. And she was leaning over, trying to help, with her hand on his abdomen, when the constable came along and tapped on the window. The officer claimed he witnessed oral sex and warned the couple about lewd behaviour in public places. He said Knights, after doing up his trousers, became belligerent, and was taken to a police station where, after a call to his lawyer he signed a written caution and was released. The officer's report found its way into the Sun newspaper a couple of days later, and the couple suing for libel, claiming "a scurrilous attack" on their reputations.

Critics meet chefs at 3-star food bash

PARIS (AP) — Take 70 top French chefs, add a small army of food critics and other movers and shakers from the gastronomy industry, and the result is a gourmet hash of memorable proportions. The National Association of Food Writers celebrated its 40th anniversary Monday night with a gala at the Grand Hotel. On offer were everything from baby eels to petits fours, washed down with champagne. The roughly 1,000 guests were confronted by vast, eye-catching buffets laid on by the chefs and by various food associations. They were grouped according to seven regions of France. Chefs on hand included Paul Bocuse, Michel Guerard, Roger Verge, Bernard Loiseau and Jean-Pierre Troisgros. For starters, there was an enormous table of oysters from the Marennes area on the southwest Atlantic coast. A waiter said 4,000 were served during the evening. Nearby was a display of wholemeal breads by the famous Poilane Bakery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prosecutors deny deal to free Tyson

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Prosecutors Tuesday denied a television report that former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson could get out of prison early if he admits to raping beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington. "We are bewildered as to where these rumours originated. They certainly did not come from the prosecutor's office," said Robert Smith, a spokesman for the Marion County state's attorney. Smith issued a written denial of a report aired Monday by a local television station, WTHR, which said prosecutors were discussing a deal for the fighter's release with lawyers for Tyson, who was convicted in 1992 of raping Washington. The television report said the negotiations may be linked to an upcoming hearing in the Indiana Court of Appeals on Tyson's claim that prosecutors withheld evidence at his trial. Tyson's first appeal of his sentence was rejected and his lawyer has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

Robson joins champions Porto

LISBON (R) — Former England manager Bobby Robson has joined reigning Portuguese champions Porto replacing Croat coach Tomislav Ivic, chairman Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa said Wednesday. Robson, shocked by his dismissal last month by Lisbon side Sporting, had made it clear he would be happy to remain in Portugal despite being wooed to coach the Wales national side. "Robson will be introduced as the new coach at the Antas Stadium (in Porto) this morning." Pinto da Costa told Lisbon's TSF Radio. Speculation mounted Tuesday that Robson would replace Ivic after the Croat coach announced his departure from Porto Tuesday to become an International Football Federation (FIFA) trainer. Ivic had been criticised by Porto fans for constantly changing the team's line-up. Porto currently lies third in the Portuguese league table, four points behind leaders Benfica, and one behind second-placed Sporting.

Nigeria announces world U-21 dates

LAGOS (AFP) — The under-21 world soccer championship which Nigeria is hosting in 1995 will be held from March 11-26, the organisers announced Tuesday. Four stadia — Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna — have been selected for the tournament, with the capital hosting a semi-final, the final and the third-place play-off. A delegation from the International Football Federation (FIFA), was expected here Tuesday for a five-day inspection of the venues.

Third Hawaiian makes it big in Japan sumo

TOKYO (R) — A third Hawaiian-American hit the sumo big-time Wednesday when the governing body of Japan's ancient sport promoted Fiamalu Penitani to the rank of Ozeki (champion). Penitani, whose ring name is Musashimaru, is now one of four wrestlers on the next-to-top rung of sumo. The only man above them is another Hawaiian — the towering Chad Rowan, who last year earned the sport's highest accolade, the title of yokozuna (grand champion). A third compatriot, the 262 kilogramme colossus Salevaa Atisanoe, 30, lost his ozeki rank last year as age and chronic injuries took their toll. Musashimaru, 22, has been one of Japan's most consistent sumo practitioners over the past two years but until this month's Tokyo new year tournament had never really tilted at the top.

Lewis to defend title in May

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Lennox Lewis will make the third defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight crown against American Phil Jackson in the United States May 6, Lewis' manager has announced. The only important point left to settle is the venue, but Frank Maloney, Lewis' boss, says it is virtually certain to go ahead in Reno, Nevada. Maloney is then looking for Lewis to defend against Don King's mandatory challenger, Oliver McCall, in July or August, possibly in Britain. Should Lewis win both fights, Maloney will bid for a unification fight with International Boxing Federation (IBF) and World Boxing Association (WBA) champion Evander Holyfield, who faces a mandatory defence against Michael Moorer in mid-summer. "The last few weeks have been a nightmare, very frustrating for both Lennox and myself," said Maloney. "Now our plan is to go for McCall in the summer and then the ultimate one against Evander Holyfield. "I'm certain that Jackson will be really fired up fighting for a world title, but Lennox is the best one out there and will be determined to prove it in this defence. With this one sorted out, our aim is to keep Lennox busy in 1994." Jackson, from Miami, is ranked world number five by the WBC after a career which includes 27 knockouts, 29 victories and one defeat. Lewis boasts 23 wins, 19 of them knockouts.

Irresponsible riding offence to be introduced

LONDON (R) — A new offence of irresponsible riding is to be introduced by the Jockey Club in Britain from April 18. Less serious than reckless or international interference but more serious than careless riding, it will be punished by demotion for the horse and a minimum four-day ban on the jockey. A new definition of careless riding is also being brought in, allowing stewards to penalise the jockey but not the horse. The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee drew up changes after carrying out a review of inquiries into interfence. It found stewards were down-grading cases of careless riding to accidental interference to allow the "best" horse to win and that the category was too broad, covering a wide range of interference incidents.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Void ♡KQ986 ◇AJ1095 ♣K93
The bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 ♡	Pass	2 ♡	Pass
?			

What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠107632 ♡K85 ◇73 ♣865
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♡	Pass	?	

What action do you take?

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K9 ♡AQ976 ◇96 ♣K752
The bidding has proceeded:

West	North	East	South
1 ♡	Pass	Pass	?

What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK2 ♡542 ◇AQJ ♣AKJ3
What is your opening bid?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q54 ♡J ◇86 ♣A987654
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K7 ♡AKJ53 ◇AJ5 ♣AJ6
What is your opening bid?
Look for answers on Monday.

Smith sparks Knicks to win over Suns in NBA

NEW YORK (R) — Charles Smith returned to the Knicks' starting lineup and scored eight of his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter as New York rallied for a 98-96 victory over the Phoenix Suns Tuesday.

John Starks also scored 25 points and Patrick Ewing added 24 for the Knicks, who erased a 12-point third-quarter deficit and snapped a two-game losing streak.

Smith, in his third game since missing 24 games because of a knee injury and back in the starting lineup for the first time since then, sparked a Knicks team in turmoil over the offence's predictable dependence on Ewing and Starks.

"He's our added low-post player that we need down there," Starks said of Smith. "They can't key on Patrik as much."

Cedric Ceballos, who poured in a career-high 40 points in Saturday's 118-117 win over Portland, scored 34 for Phoenix, which dropped to 4-5 without all-star forward Charles Barkley. Phoenix was also without guards Kevin Johnson and Danny Ainge.

A.C. Green added 16 points for the Suns.

In Seattle, Ron Harper scored a season-high 37 points as the Los Angeles Clippers upset the supersonics 111-103.

Harper shot 15-of-19 and grabbed 10 rebounds and Danny Manning added 27 points as the Clippers got their first win at Seattle in 19 games, since 28, 1985.

Mark Jackson added 18 points and Ricky Pierce and Kendall Gill had 16 each as the Clippers snapped a two-game losing streak and won for just the third time in 12 games.

In Houston, Vernon Maxwell hit a 3-pointer with 29-7 seconds left to give the Rockets the lead for good as they defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers 96-93.

Maxwell had 21 points and Hakeem Olajuwon had 13 points, 10 rebounds, nine assists and four blocks for the Rockets, who won for just the third time in their last eight games.

In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 31 points and J.R. Reid netted eight of his 19 points during a 13-0 second-quarter run to lead the Spurs past the struggling Sacramento Kings 107-91.

The Spurs, who outscored the Kings 26-14 in the pivotal second quarter, have won 13 of their last 16 games.

Mitch Richmond, Sacramento's leading scorer, was held to just 15 points. The Kings have lost five straight.

In Miami, Rony Seikaly had 26 points and 113 rebounds and Steve Smith added 25 points and 10 assists to power the Heat to a 119-98 rout of the Charlotte Hornets.

The Heat have won two straight after a seven-game losing streak.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 22 points as the Magic cruised to their season-high fourth straight win, 112-89 over the Washington Bullets.

Nick Anderson added 21 points for the Magic, who defeated the Bullets for the sixth time in their last seven meetings.

In Milwaukee, Mookie Blaylock scored eight of Atlanta's final 14 points as the Hawks held off the Bucks 95-90.

Atlanta held a 76-65 lead early in the fourth quarter, when Milwaukee went on a 16-5 tear to tie the game 81-81.

In Portland, Rod Strickland sank a short running jumper in the lane with 1:40 remaining to give Portland the lead for good and the Trail Blazers held on for a 122-117 win over the New Jersey Nets.

Clifford Robinson had 30 points and Strickland finished with 28 for the Blazers, who beat the Nets for the eighth straight time at home and improved to 18-2 all-time against them in Portland.

Derrick Coleman had 22 points and Kenny Anderson added 21 to lead New Jersey, which had its season-high five-game winning streak snapped.

Edberg passes Muster to reach semifinal of Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Swede Stefan Edberg powered into the semifinals of the Australian Open Wednesday after his Austrian opponent Thomas Muster failed in a bid to play the match in the heat of the day.

Fourth seed Edberg gave a faultless display of serve-and-volley tennis to dispatch Muster 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 in 96 minutes during the evening session on Centre Court.

Muster made a request to play the match during the afternoon session, when the temperature rose to 40 degrees celsius, but was turned down.

Muster, one of the fittest players on tour, was unable to exploit his stamina as Edberg advanced to his fifth successive semifinal at Flinders Park.

Edberg joined three Americans — defending champion Jim Courier, world number one Pete Sampras and ninth seed Todd Martin — in the last four.

Courier, like Muster, asked to play his quarterfinal in the searing heat of the day. The Austrian sixth seed lost out because he had not previously played at night during the tournament.

The Edberg-Muster match was interrupted for just over 30 minutes when the hot weather gave way to an evening rain storm which forced officials to close the stadium roof.

Edberg had raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set when the rain came but the delay did not affect his impressive progress.

The Swede will face Martin Friday when the semifinals will feature three Americans for the first time since 1982.

Edberg, 28, runner-up here for the past two years, said he was delighted with his form.

"If I keep playing the way I am, I have a good chance of doing well here," he said. "I am hitting the ball as well as I have for a year. It is coming together pretty well."

Edberg, unlike Muster, was pleased his match was scheduled for the relative cool of the evening.

"It's a lot nicer. I was lucky to get the night match," he said.

Earlier, top-seeded Sampras defeated no. 10 Magnus Gustafsson 7-6 (7-4), 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) to advance to the semifinals on a day when air temperatures soared to 38 degrees celsius.

Sampras is aiming to win his first Australian Open title to add to the Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles he already holds.

The 22-year-old American was given a touch fight by Gustafsson, who was playing in the first Grand Slam quarterfinal of his career.

Sampras' win took him 2 hours, 50 minutes. Both players used iced towels on their necks and legs in a bid to keep as cool as possible. On-court, the mercury rose to 52 degrees celsius (126 fahrenheit).

Todd Martin, also of the United States, joined Sampras in the semifinals at the National Tennis Centre.

The no. 9 seed kept his cool on sun-baked no. 1 court and outlasted unseeded compatriot Malival Washington, who had trouble with both his service and his groundstrokes in a difficult swirling wind that swept the outside courts.

Pete Sampras

Martin prevailed [illegible] 4), 7-6 (7-5) in three hours in which winds [illegible] to 57kph.

"The whole match [illegible] shocker," Washington [illegible] describing his form [illegible] tunate, but just the way [illegible] sometimes."

Martin was [illegible] reaching his first Grand Slam semi. "I'm just so [illegible] where I am, and [illegible] chance to play again."

Washington served [illegible] ble faults in the [illegible] tiebreaker and Martin [illegible] winning that tiebreaker [illegible] crucial.

"I think maybe [illegible] discouraged and [illegible] relieved," he said.

Sampras, chasing his [illegible] Grand Slam title, said [illegible] conserved energy [illegible] by conceding games [illegible] he was trailing [illegible] smart move, I think."

Sampras now will [illegible] fending champion [illegible] Friday's semis.

Martin will face [illegible] champion Edberg.

Both women's semifinals [illegible] scheduled for Thursday.

Ambidextrous no. [illegible] Kimiko Date of Japan [illegible] three-time champion [illegible] Graf of Germany, while [illegible] Arantxa Sanchez Vicario [illegible] Spain plays no. 4 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina.

Milla aims to dazzle again at World Cup

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP) — Roger Milla wants to dazzle World Cup spectators again with his hip-shaking victory dance.

The Cameroon soccer star, aged 42, said Tuesday he hopes to come out of retirement a second time in order to play in the United States this summer.

But some players are unhappy at Milla's return because he did not play in the qualifying games.

Milla, star of the first African team to reach the quarterfinals of soccer's premier competition, told the Associated Press that he's training hard and is under pressure from American organisers to play in World Cup '94.

He said he will make his mind up after a local match Sunday betwen two of Cameroons first division sides, Canon and the club he rejoins this week, Tonnerre Yaounde (Yaounde Thunder).

"Everything depends on my from and the results of my preparation," Milla said at his home in Yaounde, capital of this central African nation.

Milla said he wakes early each morning to jog for a half hour, then spends 40 minutes climbing hills. In the afternoon, he jogs to the National Sports Stadium to work on his ball technique.

In between, he works as director of the "indomitable lions," the popular name of Cameroon's national team.

Milla's election to the lions team is certainly not automatic, and some teams players are complaining privately that he was not involved in the tough qualification series, that he may prove unfit and that he is too old to be a striker.

If he does get to USA '94, Milla would be the oldest-ever player in a World Cup finals. Dino Zoff captained Italy to victory in 1982 at age 40 but he was a goalkeeper.

All Cameroon's club sides were eliminated from African championships last year, so their 3-1 qualifying victory against Zimbabwe in Yaounde in October came as a relief to national team officials.

Now all they need to do is come up with the money to help the team's World Cup chances.

Cameroon's cash-strapped government last week said it was searching for one national and one international sponsor to come up with 4.9 billion African francs (more than $8 million) to finance the lions on their road to the United States.

England-Germany friendly set for Berlin

BONN (R) — An international friendly between England and Germany, cancelled in Hamburg for fear of neo-Nazi violence, will take place in Berlin's Olympic stadium. The German Football Federation (DFB) decided Wednesday to hold the match in Berlin but to keep the same date, April 20, the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday.

The DFB originally planned to hold the match in the northern port city of Hamburg.

However, city officials asked that the game be moved to another venue because of fears that neo-Nazis planned to disrupt the event to mark Hitler's birthday.

Berlin, which staged the 1936 Olympic Games used by Hitler to spread Nazi propaganda, had applied to the federation to host the friendly.

Since unification in 1990, there has been a resurgence of neo-Nazi and other extremist violence in Germany during which 30 people, many of them foreigners, have died.

Anand qualifies for world chess finals

WIJK AAN ZEE, Netherlands (R) — Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand qualified for the finals of the world chess championship by defeating Russian Emigre Artur Yusupov in their candidates match which concluded Tuesday.

After seven of the eight scheduled games Anand held an unassailable 4.5-2.5 lead, giving the 24-year-old from Madras a place among the last six candidates for the world championship as well as 10,190.

Twelve of the world's best grandmasters are competing in the Dutch coastal town of Wijk Aan Zee in knock-out matches sponsored by the giant Dutch steel corporation Hoogvens.

The matches are the concluding states of two-year competition designed to find a challenger for world champion Russian Anatoly Karpov in 1995. The six winners in Wijk Aan Zee will compete in the next stage of the cycle in July.

Anand, ranked their din the world, is one of the favourites to qualify to play Karpov.

Anand has also reached the final eight of the unofficial world title series being organised by Garry Kasparov, the Russian who was stripped of the world title last year.

"Anand has excellent chances of proceeding further," said Anand's aide Patrick Wolff. "Vishy is the strongest player in both cycles."

Anand has now exceeded the result achieved by the only previous Asian world championship candidate, Eugenio Torre of the Philippines in a sport still dominated by players born in the old Soviet Union.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt checks radiation near Israel border

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian army has sent experts to northern Sinai to investigate reports of increased radiation levels close to the border with Israel, security sources said Wednesday. They said the investigators have been checking a 50-kilometre Mediterranean coastal strip from Rafah to El Arish since Friday. The sources said they were checking reports of a leak from Israel's nuclear reactor at Dimona in the desert. In Israel, the environment ministry said it had no report of increased radiation in the area.

Small bombs explode in northern Spain

PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — Four small bombs exploded outside banks in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona Wednesday morning, police sources said. Three devices went off at around 7 a.m. (0600 GMT) and a fourth 20 minutes later. No one was injured but the blasts came a day after an attempted car bombing in Madrid and could signal a new wave of attacks by the Basque separatist group ETA. A few minutes before the first blast on Wednesday, a telephone caller to a local newspaper said the bombs had been placed by ETA, which has fought for 25 years for an independent Basque state.

Police kill 10 drug traffickers in Iran

TEHRAN (AP) — Police have killed 10 drug traffickers and armed bandits in clashes in southeastern Iran this week, newspapers said Wednesday. The traffickers were members of Narui clan, which encompasses several small tribes scattered around Sistan-Baluchistan province. They were accused of kidnapping, distributing narcotics and terrorising the public. The authorities have recently reinforced security at Iran's eastern borders in a bid to stop drug smugglers entering from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Four accused in plotting to kill Hrawi

BEIRUT (AP) — A military magistrate has charged three right-wing militiamen and a presidential guardsman with plotting to assassinate President Elias Hrawi in 1991 and demanded the death penalty, according to documents made public Wednesday. A charge sheet issued by military examining Magistrate Riadh Tlai said three of the suspects were in custody and one was on the run. The conspiracy was foiled by Samir Geagea, leader of the right-wing Lebanese Forces milita, when he learned of the plot from its alleged mastermind, his security chief, Ghassan Touma. Mr. Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic like Mr. Geagea, was then living in west Beirut under heavy security. His predecessor, Rene Mouawad, was killed in a bomb Nov. 22, 1989, 17 days after taking office. Judge Tlaih's report said Adjutant Sherfan Boulos, 56, a member of the Lebanese presidential palace guard suspected of complicity in Mr. Hrawi's assassination, had been under arrest since Dec. 20. The three others were members of the Lebanese Forces militia.

U.N. troops deploy along Iraq border

KUWAIT (AP) — Armed U.N. peacekeepers have started fanning out along Kuwait's disputed border with Iraq, and Iraqi farmers living on land now considered Kuwaiti will be returned to their homeland next month, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. Abdul Hameed Al Awadi, director of the ministry's international organisations department, told the Associated Press that deployment of the 790-man Bangladesh contingent would be completed in February. The Bangladeshis join about 300 unarmed U.N. monitors who have patrolled the area since shortly after the end of the Gulf war. The official would not say what kind of weapons the Bangladeshi troops were carrying.

3 share record Israeli lotto jackpot

TEL AVIV (AP) — Three winners on Wednesday shared Israel's second $7.34 million lotto jackpot, ending a craze that has briefly brushed away strife and united Israelis and Palestinians in a dream of sudden riches. An Israeli magician teased millions of disappointed bettors when he appeared on a live TV show shortly after Tuesday night's drawing and pulled his correct guess of the six numbers — 2, 3, 6, 10, 15, 35 — out of a sealed envelope. Magician Lior Manor had deposited four sets of guesses with a notary a day before the drawing, but said Wednesday his stunt had nothing to do with supernatural powers. Mr. Manor didn't fill out any actual lotto forms, saying he just wanted to have fun. The three who did have the winning cards have yet to come forward to claim their third of the prize, said Shuli Lessing, spokeswoman of the Israel state lottery.

Sudan supply routes fail

NAIROBI (AP) — Sudanese rebels and the government blamed each other Tuesday for the collapse of talks on the delivery of relief supplies by the United Nations to the country's war-torn south. "The rebels are responsible for the obstacles to reach an agreement on humanitarian assistance," said Ibrahim Aduof, state minister for social planning. But Justin Arop, who led rebel negotiators, said the talks broke down because the government claimed it had the right to control all activities in the country. The talks began Jan. 21 in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi with officials of the U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan acting as intermediaries between Sudan and two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. U.N. officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Larouche freed after five years in jail

ROCHESTER, Minnesota (AFP) — Political extremist Lyndon Larouche was released from prison Wednesday after serving a third of a 15-year prison sentence for fraud, prison officials said. Mr. Larouche, who has run for president several times since 1976 on a right-wing platform, said on the eve of his release that he would be running for president again in 1996. "This is a battle. We're now in the greatest crisis of our nation's history in the 20th century," Mr. Larouche told KSTP-TV. Mr. Larouche, 71, went to prison after being convicted in 1988 of deliberately defaulting on more than $30 million in loans from supporters of his presidential campaign.

Four rapists hanged in public in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Four men convicted of rape and armed robbery were hanged in public at the scene of their crimes in southern Iran on Wednesday, the newspaper Kayhan reported. A revolutionary court found them guilty of setting up roadblocks for extortion, rape and battery in the city of Shiraz and its suburbs in Fars province, it said. They were declared "corrupt of the earth" and hanged. Two other men, accused of collaborating, were each given 70 lashes of the whip.

Miners in burning Indian colliery

CALCUTTA (AFP) — Rescue workers rushed in reinforcements Wednesday as they struggled to reach 45 miners trapped more than 200 metres below ground in a blazing coalmine in eastern India, officials said. The miners have been trapped since Tuesday, when a short-circuit started a fire in the mine located in West Bengal's coal-belt in Jhamuria district, some 200 kilometres northwest of Calcutta, they said. Firetrucks and rescue personnel reached the blazing pit Wednesday in a bid to reach the miners believed to be holed up 233 metres below ground. But rescue attempts failed as the flames and explosive methane gas prevented firefighters from going deep inside the pit. Reinforcements were brought in on Wednesday in a bid to reach the trapped miners .

U.N. official says Iraq talks were productive

BAGHDAD (R) — A senior U.N. official left Iraq on Wednesday saying five days of intensive talks on ways of ensuring that it does not resurrect its weapons of mass destruction had been productive.

But Charles Duelfer, deputy chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) disarming Iraq under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, said much remained to be finalised — including the use U.N. planes and helicopters for monitoring.

Mr. Duelfer told reporters before leaving, his talks had been "frank and productive."

"These discussions have been very productive and will further the implementation of (Security Council) Resolution 715," he said.

Resolution 715 calls for intrusive control of Iraq's arms industry to check that no activities banned by the Gulf war ceasefire conditions take place in Iraq in the future.

The Security Council has linked Iraqi compliance with the weapons provisions of the ceasefire resolutions to resumption of Iraq oil exports — banned as part of a trade blockade imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus is due in Baghdad on Feb. 2 for talks on the issue of compliance with the ceasefire terms. He will see Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

Mr. Duelfer said Iraq had provided detailed information about its arms-related facilities, which the U.N. was busy evaluating. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Duelfer said much more remained to be done before Iraq and UNSCOM could finalise discussions on how to translate Resolution 715 into action.

Mr. Duelfer arrived in Baghdad on Friday to work out a mechanism for such monitoring. He met the chairman of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Authority, General Amer Rasheed.

Among issues not solved yet, Mr. Duelfer said, was the use of U.N. helicopters and planes during the monitoring process.

Iraq stalled on the resolution for about two years arguing that it infringed its sovereignty.

A team of 16 U.N. weapons inspectors under Russian Nikita Smidovich remain in Iraq. They are preparing the groundwork for future control of Iraqi missile production. Iraq is only allowed to possess and manufacture missiles with a range of less than 150 kilometres.

Mr. Duelfer said he did not know yet when long-term monitoring under Resolution 715 would start in Iraq. He declined to fix a time-framework for Iraq's full compliance with U.N. weapons demands.

Most of Iraqi arms, including nuclear, long-range missile, chemical and biological weapons programmes, were destroyed either by allied bombs during the war or under the supervision of U.N. inspectors over the past three years.

However, fears remain that Iraq is still trying to regenerate its arsenal.

Earlier this month , German and Saudi agents raided a German freighter at the Red Sea port of Jeddah and seized Chinese chemicals intended for production of rocket fuel in Iraq.

UNSCOM has been particularly concerned with tracking down prohibited Scud missiles, of which 200 of some 850 remain unaccounted for.

After three years of resisting U.N. resolutions, Iraq in November acknowledged Resolution 715.

Iraq on Jan. 15 provided UNSCOM with a 1,000-page initial declaration of its industrial establishments to provide baseline information for the monitoring team. Half of the declaration related to missiles.

"I think in recent times, Iraq has provided us much more information that they had earlier on. So I think there is a growing knowledge base within UNSCOM, and a growing confidence that we have a pretty good understanding," Mr. Duelfer said.

Mr. Duelfer angrily rejected a suggestion posed in a question from a reporter that U.N. surveillance aircraft were U.S. spy planes.

"I don't agree with your question as you have stated: The aircraft, which you described as spy planes are operated under the control of the United Nations," he said.

Iraq frequently has protested flights by surveillance aircraft over its territory to monitor military activity.

"We will continue to need aircraft to perform various missions. We have agreed to discuss the question of what aircraft we use with the government of Iraq," he said.

Bouteflika turns down Algerian presidency

ALGIERS (AP) — The Algerian regime's ill-fated attempt at national reconciliation crumbled further Wednesday when its candidate for transitional president, former Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Bouteflika, turned down the post.

Mr. Bouteflika, 59, had "agreed to stand as candidate ... (but) revised his position," Yousef Khatib, the chairman of a national conference boycotted by all the main political parties, told the remaining delegates.

Reliable sources said the army had wanted Mr. Bouteflika to take up the post of head of state until elections are held in 1997, but he changed his mind when he was told he would not be allowed to take charge of national defence policy or make new military appointments.

The independence war veteran, who had served as foreign minister from 1963 until 1979, also rejected the job because he would not have been given the power to replace Prime Minister Redha Malek, whom the regime wished to stay on after four months in office, the sources said.

The High Security Council, a military-dominated policy body, was Wednesday casting around for a new candidate to replace the high state committee, or collegiate presidency, whose mandate expires on Jan. 31, the sources said.

The most widely touted name was that of retired General Lamine Zeroal, 53, who has been defence minister for six months.

The government convened its two-day national "consensus" conference in Club des Pins, about 30 kilometres (20 miles) from here on Tuesday, in a bid to find a widely acceptable political settlement to end two years of Islamic fundamentalist guerrilla warfare

But it suffered its first setback even before the conference started when most of the main political parties refused to take part, saying they would only participate if the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was represented directly or indirectly.

On Tuesday, several small political parties walked out of the gathering after the authorities abandoned plans to have the conference choose the new head of state and two deputy presidents.

The FIS, most of whose top leaders are serving jail terms on conviction of state security offences, on Tuesday said through a senior spokesman in exile, Rabah Kebir, that the conference was "ridiculous" and called for the release of all detained Islamists.

The collegiate presidency took office in Jan. 1992, when then-president Chadli Ben-Jedid stepped down in the middle of general elections and the army robbed the FIS of certain sweeping victory

Mysterious explosion in downtown Amman cinema wounds seven

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An explosion tore through a downtown movie theatre and triggered a fire on Wednesday, injuring at least seven people, one of them seriously.

The cause of the blast, at the Rivoli Cinema in a densely crowded area of Amman, was not immediately established.

A brief Ministry of Interior statement reported the explosion and the casualties, but did not give details. It said investigations were continuing.

Witnesses reported hearing a loud blast a few minutes before 1 p.m., shortly after a regular matinee show started at the movie house. They said they saw people, most of them youngsters, rushing out of the street level theatre in a four-storey white-stone building which also houses dozens of shops.

"We thought it was a gas cylinder exploding," said Wael, who works in a nearby electric shop. "Then we heard the commotion, and saw people rushing out into the streets; several of them were almost run down in traffic."

Ambulances and fire engines rushed to the spot and security forces cordoned off the area. Civil Defence officials said the fire sparked by the explosion was contained in less than 15 minutes.

The cinema is located in the main street in an area usually crowded by shoppers and commuters waiting for buses and service taxis.

The witnesses said they saw several people being carried away to ambulances and others given first aid treatment for smoke inhalation. Some of the severe injuries appeared to have been caused by flying fragments and fire.

"One of them looked badly hurt," said Wael.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, identified the injured as Salah Awad Adwan, 30, and Mohammad Khalid Adwan, 25, both Jordanians; and Ahmad Ali, 30, Hamid Abdul Hamid Shams, 25, and Abdul Aziz Rizq Abdul Ghaffar, 23, all Egyptians.

It said Sudanese Issam Ibrahim Hassan Mohammad, 30, and another unidentified man also were injured in the blast.

Other witnesses said most of the injured appeared to be Egyptians.

Police declined to reveal any detail of the incident. Security sources said they suspected that a bomb was behind the blast.

"But it is too early to say anything definite," said a security source.

Reporters taken inside the theatre after bomb squads swept the spot saw that the projection room was completed demolished. Shredded glass littered the floor of the blackened room and projection equipment looked unsalvageable.

In the auditorium itself, the blast had torn off chairs in the back rows. Some of them were half burnt. The walls were also blackened by smoke. Parts of the ceiling had come down in the hall as well as the projection room.

Observers noted that it was doubtful that police could come up with eyewitnesses from inside the theatre except those who were injured since few were likely to stick around and testify and embarass themselves in the bargain because of the nature of the film that was being screened.

According to the witnesses, the theatre was screening a Turkish movie bordering on soft pornography while the billboard outside indicated a different film was on show.

Police removed several film reels from the cinema, which, according to the sources, has a record of screening movies in violation of Jordanian censorship regulations.

It was the second incident of fire in Amman in five weeks. On Dec. 17, more than 300 people, most of them Christmas shoppers, were injured when an electrical fault sparked a fire at Safeway department store.

King: Satisfactory solutions first, accord later

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanian territory to Jordanian sovereignty — then we can look at the entire rift valley and look at what can be done in the context of looking at it as a complete economic unit — in terms of resources, in terms of all the potential that there is to develop into the best way possible to the benefit of all.

"So the question of borders and territories and sovereignty over our territories is one of the aspects that has to be addressed. Another area is water, and there again, I believe that all the available resources might not be adequate for the needs of all concerned in the future, but certainly we have to work out the destribution of these waters in a satisfactory way in terms of the percentages that are peoples' rights. Beyond that, hopefully in a context of peace, we can look at what can be done beyond that to secure needed water for all concerned and obviously the third dimension — and this is not all because there are many other items on the agenda — is the human dimension. There has to be a qualitative change of life. I would hope that the priority will be given to people in the occupied territories, but beyond that, the region, for everybody to feel what peace is, to know what peace is, to realise what transformation there is as we progress along to its attainment."

"I am really optimistic and that is my tendency, of course I can never be absolutely certain that things will work the way we wish. But I think that there is a general concensus amongst the overwhelming majority of people that we move towards resolving problems. I hope Palestinians on their soil will enjoy democracy and pluralism, respect for human rights and a chance to live and work with us and I hope that Jordan and Palestine eventually can be an example to others in the entire region."

In reply to a question on an assertion in a book written by an Israeli general in which he said that the King went to Israel before the war of '73 and he warned the Israelis that the Egyptians and Syrians will attack them.

"Sir when the war of 1973 occurred, we were not informed. It was kept from us. It took me totally by surprise. You know that and the world knows that. As far as the subject of contacts between Jordan and Israel, the ground rules had been that nothing should be said about these contacts but they have existed since the ratification of Security Council Resolution 242 in an attempt to implement it in the context of Arab agreement until '74. After '74 it became the PLO's responsibility in accordance with an Arab summit decision and we have tried to persuade all to move in that direction. Only the Palestinians could speak for themselves. It has taken us since '74 to '93 to '94 to arrive at that point. Now things have moved. But any other suggestions are totally — in reference specifically to that question of yours, which I hope you wouldn't have asked in the first place — that is totally untrue, sir."

Earlier, in a meeting at the Council for Foreign Relations, the King said Jordan was involved in tackling all issues with the Israeli side in accordance with the joint Israeli-Jordanian agenda.

Following are some major excerpts from the King's comments:

The King briefly reviewed Jordan's consistant policies and efforts to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"In the years since 74 we tried every way possible to achieve progress towards peace. Finally we disengaged legally and administratively with the occupied West Bank and this paved the way for the PLO's acceptance of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

We all lived through the tremendous changes that have occurred throughout the world in recent times and with them the growing feelings in our region by those who look beyond today to tomorrow and to years from now, long after we are no more, to the interest of people. And interest has grown and manifested itself in responsible action hopefully aimed at the establishment of peace.

We went to Madrid and we did so after holding a national conference in Jordan and looking at all the options we went to Madrid supported by the Jordanian people in terms of their commitments to the establishment of peace. We went to Madrid creating the opportunity for our Palestinian bretbren to go under an umbrella that has since been pulled down and relegated to a closet of history to provide also the opportunity for Palestinians to speak for themselves regarding their cause on their land and regarding their future.

And beyond Madrid, Moscow, the multilaterals and Washington, and the 13th of September last year was a day that will be remembered for many many years to come, for at last in this capital of the U.S., Palestinians and Israelis recognised each other and began the process towards resolving their differences based on 242 and 338 that called for negotiations amongst the parties. The handshakes that were witnessed by the world were indeed of tremendous significance and importance, and I believe that they tore down many walls and many obstacles in the face of progress towards the attainment of peace.

That was Sept. 13.

Sept. 14 — Jordan ratified the agenda that it had worked out with the government of Israel relating to the subjects that had to be covered and dealt with and resolved culminating in the establishment of peace. We did so shortly after the event that took place the day before because we were consistent since 1974 in recognising the Palestinians' rights and the PLO's right to represent them regarding their fate and their future and their cause of their national soil.

Although it took us by surprise we could not but to be true to ourselves and therefore we also recognised the fact that what took place on that date was an act of great wisdom and great courage on both sides and in support of it we moved. We could have moved before but we did not because we wanted to see progress on the Palestinian track with Israel.

"We are starting another round of talks here in Washington and I hope that it will produce tangible results.

We in Jordan have always supported Palestinians regarding their rights on their soil. Finally, they have ... on their own. They will continue to have our full support in any way that we can prove for the need of the times ahead. We and the Palestinians, Syrians and the Lebanese all started at the same point.

Referring to the Jan. 16 summit in Geneva between President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the King said, I believe that what we will see in the near future is rapid progress hopefully in addressing all the problems in all the tracks. A question was asked by some, what of Jordan? Jordan believes and thrives for a comprehensive peace in the region. But in terms of the facts Jordan is now engaged in addressing all the items, all the subjects that will be the core of the efforts hopefully of Jordan and Israel to try to resolve and that formulated or formed the joint agenda.

Some have suggested that I should on this visit at a meeting with top Israeli official ratify a peace treaty. My feeling is that a peace treaty is the crowning achievement and must be of resolving of all different problems that are there. And I hope that rapid progress will be made to enable us to reach that point before long. I hope that we will see progress on all the other tracks as well.

Syrian efforts Rabin wants

(Continued from page 1)

meeting between Mr. Assad and President Bill Clinton.

In a reference to renewed violence along the Israel-Lebanon border, Mr. Rabin said, "we don't have any territorial designs in Lebanon."

"However, Lebanon will not budge without Syria's blessing," he said.

"I have committed myself and my government to the present peace process," he said, adding he hoped "1994 will be a year during which a peace agreement can be reached with our Arab neighbours."

A state-run Syrian newspaper Wednesday urged Washington to use its leverage on Israel to help make the current round of peace talks a success.

"Nudging the peace process largely depends on U.S. willingness and ability to pressure the Israelis to abandon their longheld positions on key matters of withdrawal and national rights," said the English-language daily Syria Times.

COLUMN

Designer fears for safety after Koran dress blunder

BERLIN (R) — German couturier Karl Lagerfeld has cancelled an appearance at an award ceremony in Berlin this month, fearing for his safety after offending some Muslims by designing a low-cut dress bearing embroidered Koranic verses. The Axel Springer Publishing House, which owns the B.Z. newspaper hosting the award ceremony, said in a statement that protests from Muslims against the dress were behind Lagerfeld's withdrawal for "security reasons." German model Claudia Schiffer, who triggered the row by modelling one of the dresses in Paris in a show put on by the Chanel fashion house, has been reported to be scared to set foot in the street without bodyguards. Chanel has apologised to Muslims in France and worldwide for the blunder, saying it acted in good faith. The fashion house said Lagerfeld took the design from a book on India's Taj Mahal and had been told it was a love poem. The mistake came to light when a Muslim community in Indonesia protested to Germany about the dress. Germany's mass-circulation Bild newspaper has quoted Muslims in Germany as saying Schiffer should be punished for modelling it. An Egyptian parliamentary committee has urged Muslims to boycott Chanel in retaliation.

7 Singaporeans punished for junking junk mail

SINGAPORE (R) — A court has ordered seven Singaporeans to clean up public places for up to two hours for littering their neighbourhoods with junk mail, the Environment Ministry said Wednesday. The ministry has issued 31 summonses since launching a crackdown on litterbugs last month but the seven were the first to be convicted for indiscriminately throwing away unwanted mail from their letterboxes, a spokesman said. Some also left unwanted handbills on top of their mailboxes. Singaporeans can be fined up to $1,000 ($625) for spitting, smoking indoors, failing to flush public toilets or other acts which could be held as spoiling the strait-laced island city's green and clean image. The ministry has not decided the place the seven will clean up. "In the past, people served with corrective work orders have been asked to clean up beaches, housing estates and parks," the spokesman said.

Jurors deadlocked in Menendez murder trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — Jurors deciding the fate of Lyle Menendez, one of two brothers accused of murdering their wealthy Beverly Hills parents, told a judge twice Tuesday that they were hopelessly deadlocked. But 12 days after a mistrial was declared in Erik Menendez' trial, Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg ordered jurors to continue deliberating in hopes of breaking their impasse. After sending the panel back a second time, the judge recessed the case until Friday, apparently convinced that jurors needed more time to deal with losses some of them suffered in last week's devastating earthquake. Defence lawyer Jill Lansing said turmoil in the jury room appeared to be the result of jurors' concerns about putting their own lives back together in the quake's aftermath. Damage to the courthouse prevented deliberations all last week, and Tuesday's hearings were held in a trailer being used as a makeshift courtroom. The jury was meeting for its 24th day. If the case ends in a second mistrial, it will be another victory for a defence team that worked passionately to convince jurors the brothers were driven to kill their parents out of fear for their lives after years of sexual abuse. Lyle, 26, and Erik, 23, both admitted shotgunning their parents to death on Aug. 20, 1989, in the living room of the family mansion. But they said they did it in self-defence, convinced they themselves were marked for murder after threatening to go public allegations their father had sexually molested them.